KHADI-GRAMODYOG

Vol. 2 April 1956 No.

PRINCIPAL, GRAMASEVAKS TRAINING CENTRE
14 MAY 1956

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THE DAILY BREAD

"Probably very few workers have noticed that progress of hand-spinning means the greatest voluntary co-operation among millions of human beings scattered over a very wide area and working for their daily bread. No doubt, agriculture has required much co-operative effort, but hand-spinning requires still greater and more honest co-operation. Wheat grows more by nature's honesty than by man's. Manufacture of yarn in our cottages is dependent solely on human honesty. Hand-spinning is impossible without the willing and intelligent co-operation of millions of human beings.

We have to arrive at a stage when the spinner, like the grain-seller, is assured of a steady market for his yarn as well as the supply of cotton slivers if he or she does not know the process of carding.

Is it any wonder if I claim that hand-spinning can drive away, as if by magic, the growing pauperism of the masses?"

—MAHATMA GANDHI

ALL INDIA KHADI & VILLAGE INDUSTRIES BOARD.

(MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA BUILDINGS, QUEENS ROAD - BOMBAY—1.

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"The Board will be responsible for preparing and organising programmes for the production and development of Khadi and Village Industries, including training of personnel, manufacture and supply of equipment, supply of raw materials, marketing and research and study of the economic problems of different village industries. The Board will also function as a clearing house of information and experience relating to these industries".

(From the Resolution of the Government of India).

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OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL, GRAMASEVAKS TRAINING CENTRE ADUTURAI
14 MAY 1956

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Yours faithfully,

P. T. O.

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KHADI-GRAMODYOG

VOL. 2 APRIL 1956 NO. 7

WEIGH AND VALUE

The cause of Khadi and Village Industries seems to have crossed the first hurdle. It is now admitted, more or less, on all hands that if the war against unemployment and under-employment has to be fought with any amount of success, it can only be done through Khadi and village industries and not through what are known as big and centralized industries.

The employment potential in the latter is so low and the capital requirements so high that it is not even theoretically claimed that they can solve the problem. The proportion of capital to labour being nearly 10,000 to 1, where are the finances for finding work through centralized industries for crores of our people who need work ?

The Experience

The working of the first Five Year Plan has strengthened this claim of Khadi and village industries. The targets of the first plan have nearly all been achieved, but the position with regard to unemployment has not eased. If any thing, it has further deteriorated as is generally admitted by all concerned.

In the first plan a provision of Rs. 27 crores alone was made for Khadi and village industries as against Rs. 2068 crores – the total cost of the plan. In the proposed Second Five Year Plan the position has slightly improved. The provision for Khadi and village industries has been raised to Rs. 200 crores. But it cannot be said that the position which

Khadi and village industries should occupy, looking to their employment potential, has been conceded to them in our national economy.

The Controversy

A heated controversy is raging round the Ambar Charkha. The Karve Committee has recommended that no permits should be given for importing new spindles and that any additional demand for cloth should be met from this new source. This position is not acceptable to mechanised textile industry, whose interests are likely to suffer.

But they want us to believe that their opposition is not motivated by any mean considerations of self-interest. It is in the interest of the consumer and the country at large that they raise their voices in opposition. The Ambar Charkha, according to them, cannot meet the increased demand, there would be shortage of cloth and the prices would shoot up hitting the consumer hard. They further argue that, even if it could be established that the Ambar Charkha could meet the increased demand, it is a crude and inefficient instrument, its out-put of yarn would be very low and the cost very high. It is not, therefore, wise to place this extra burden on the consumer.

The Issue

This then is the real objection to the Ambar Charkha, or for the matter of that, to the traditional spinning wheel and to all village industries. The Khadi and other village industries' products are costlier than similar articles produced by the mills. In fact, whether the Ambar Charkha can produce enough yarn for the expected increased demand should not arise. We were producing all our cloth by the traditional spinning wheel before the English came to India. We were even exporting fair quantities of cloth.

The Ambar Charkha is decidedly a more efficient instrument. The out-put is at least three times as much as that of the traditional wheel and the yarn decidedly stronger and more even. The real objection, therefore, seems to be the increased price which the consumer may have to pay in case of Khadi and other village industries and it is really this consideration that weighs most with the people who are saddled with the responsibility of taking a decision in the matter. This is also the consideration which weighs most, both theoretically and practically, with the public at large. In fact Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, while inaugurating the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board, warned us in so many words that in spite of the help and patronage the Government could extend to Khadi and village industries, they would ultimately have to stand on their own legs and face the competition that is there in the open market. In other words, what Panditji really wanted to say was that no Government could stand up against these all-powerful forces of competitive economic life. It dared not do so, it ought not to do so.

Man or Money?

But if we once concede the inevitability and sanctity of these seemingly all-powerful forces which give this great advantage of producing cheaper goods to mechanized big industry, all talk of the revival of Khadi and other village industries becomes idle. We must reconcile ourselves to the prospect of the gradual but almost complete and certain extinction of what little still remains of hand-spinning and hand-weaving and other village industries. The theoretical and moral victory which they seem to have won would become meaningless. Unemployment and under-employment would stand justified and the immense misery they cause to millions, would appear unavoidable and a just price which we have to pay for enjoying the blessings of progress and enlightenment.

It may then well be asked what about the talk of waging a relentless war against unemployment? Is that all meant only as window dressing, and we do not mean what we say? The truth is, we do not always understand the full implications of what we say. We honestly want to fight unemployment, but are afraid to pay the price. But are we —and perhaps we are not—really fully honest even in that? If we really felt for the unemployed and if his suffering really meant to us something more than an intellectual concept, shall we count the cost? We do not do so in a happy family and yet we claim the country itself is a large family of which we all are members.

Should it be so?

If, therefore, we really mean to solve the problem of unemployment we should feel a little more keenly the urgency of the problem and should be willing to allow the prices to adjust themselves in accordance with a more fair and just distribution of work and wages. We should refuse to think that the present price structure is sacrosanct and we dare not disturb it. That it is neither fair nor just will be apparent if we only turn our attention to what indefensible wrongs are being perpetrated under this present system of competitive economy.

Under any system of distribution of work and wages shall anyone think of giving milk to a dog and deny it to an ailing child who may die for want of the only food that it can take? And yet thousands of children, as also adults, are dying in this country every year for want of proper nourishment and care, while thousands of dogs are getting attention, care and affection which the gods may envy. Render whatever service you may to the country or humanity, you dare not claim a right to feed your dog on meat and milk while human beings may go without these. In fact you will yourself never think of doing so. But, under the present system we are doing so without ever thinking of those who are suffering from want because of the present arrangement.

Thousands of sweepers are getting only about Rs. 30/- a month, while there

are thousands of 'chain smokers' in the country, who spend, during the same period, anything between Rs. 60/- to 100/- on cigarettes alone. A cultivator who raises food-crops gets less per acre than one who grows only tobacco or coconuts for toilet soaps. Similarly, cultivation of sugar-cane also is more profitable than that of food crops. A labourer working on land, a mine or factory gets less than one who produces or sells articles of luxury or articles that pamper only to our vanity. The teacher who educates our children is paid very poorly, but a wine merchant may roll in wealth.

Figures Speak

That the present price structure is intimately connected or is directly dependent upon the unfair distribution of work and wages is self-evident. The hardship this arrangement causes to millions of our people will be apparent if we examine the following table, grouping families according to their monthly expenditures.

Expenditure-wise Distribution of Population In Rural and Urban Areas

	Rural		Urban		
Expenditure per house-hold per month (Rs.)	Population (in lakhs)	Percentage Distribu-tion.	Population (in lakhs)	Percentage Distribu-tion.	Total Popula-tion.
1- 25	132.55	4.49	9.71	1.57	142.26
26- 50	413.59	14.02	61.52	9.94	475.11
51- 100	920.69	31.21	171.29	27.64	1091.98
101- 150	589.70	19.99	122.31	19.76	712.01
151- 300	627.17	21.26	156.54	25.29	783.71
301- 500	183.19	6.21	58.86	9.51	242.05
501-1000	83.19	2.82	31.19	5.04	114.36
1000 and above	-	-	7.73	1.25	7,73
Total	2950.08	(100.00)	619.15	(100.00)	3569.23

Strict accuracy cannot be claimed for the above, but as it represents the result of fairly extensive surveys, a workable accuracy can easily be claimed for it.

What They Say

By looking at it we find that 50 per cent of the families are living on less than Rs. 25, 50 and 100 a month. Here an average family has been supposed to consist of five members which means that :

(a) 142. 26 lakhs are living on less than 3 annas a day.

(b) 475.11 lakhs are living on less than 6 annas a day.

(c) 1091.98 lakhs are living on less than 10 annas a day.

And (d) 712.01 lakhs are living on less than Re. 1 a day.

This means that nearly 50 per cent have to live on less than annas 10 a day and another 20 per cent on less than Re. 1/- a day.

If, therefore, we judge our plans in terms of these vast numbers of our people constituting nearly 70 per cent of our total population, we shall easily be able to see that the mechanised production of consumers' goods cannot benefit them unless side by side their income is also raised. Our shops, godowns and warehouses may over-flow with consumers' goods, but how are these people to benfefit by them if they have to live even in future on annas three a day or six annas or even ten annas or a rupee a day ?

What Alternative ?

One way of increasing their income may be by raising the prices of agricultural products, as most of these people represent the rural population. But that is a thing which we do not welcome. The other way is by giving them employment through Khadi and village industries. That again is not acceptable to us as it will disturb the present price structure.

What is then the alternative? What does Swaraj mean to these people? How long can they live contented on mere promises which, under the circumstances, can never be fulfilled? What kind of a socialistic pattern of society is that which does not offer a decent living to the majority of the pepole, and showers all its blessings of a civilised life on a small microscopic minority of the people ?

The standard which we, the benefactors of society, consider decent for ourselves, we want to maintain and retain to ourselves at all costs. We do not want to endanger it by disturbing the present price levels. The politicians, the great administrators, the industrialists, the educationalists, the engineers, builders, lawyers, the leaders of medical profession, even the social and public workers have all their irreducible minimum which they must have before they will render any service.

I know we do not see things in that light. We might even feel offended by the ungenerosity of this view. I can only assure that I do not want to be more ungenerous to others than I am to myself. The point is that we cannot stop others from viewing us in this light.

The Way out

If we really want to avoid the conflict which is inherent in the situation, we must voluntarily welcome a change in the status quo. Our police and army are not there to perpetuate this modern, but more cruel and heartless, slavery. We are out to change it and if we are wise and want to avert a bitter conflict and struggle, we should allow the forces of

non-violence to work. Those who *have* must voluntarily share it with those who *have not*. I am not talking of the material possession only. We have to share our joys and sorrows together. That is the way our Bapu taught us. That is the way Vinoba is showing us today. That is the way which our Prime Minister cannot be afraid of. I claim to know the Prime Minister a little. This is the way that has always been dear to him and which he has always accepted.

If then this bloodless revolution is to come about, it can only come by a reorientation of our values. A more just and fair distribution of work and wages can only come about by a reassessment of human and material values.

POST SCRIPT

Before I could finish this article, I was called to attend a conference of Khadi workers convened by the Khadi Board at Ahmedabad. I was pained to find there an atmosphere of dissatisfaction prevailing. The latest reactions of Government were said to be even more unsympathetic. It had been repeatedly promised that Khadi work would not suffer for want of funds. Assurances were given that we could produce all we can. We may produce all the yarn we could and it shall be lifted. Now that we are fairly on a way to do so, funds are unwilling to come forth. We were assured that Ambar Charkhas could be manufactured in their lakhs, but now the word has come we cannot go beyond 10,000 at persent.

The Khadi workers have decided to go ahead as far as they can, relying on their own resources. But it will be the greatest blunder the Government will commit, if it discourages the Ambar Charkha which holds the brightest prospect of rehabilitating the countryside where real India lives.

—Vichitra Narain Sharma

WEALTH OR WELFARE?

In his speech at the recent annual general meeting of the United Commercial Bank Ltd., Shri G. D. Birla asserted that higher employment, though a desirable objective, could not be as important as the creation of greater wealth. This is a plea, in other words, for attaching importance to increased production as such, in the expectation that such growth in the aggregate quantum of production will by itself spell prosperity. This is not a new theory although, when distinguished businessmen advocate it in modern times, they phrase it differently from what it used to be advocated in the West a century ago.

All over the world we had increased production, but it hardly meant stability and prosperity for all. A few, no doubt, benefited; and where sheltered markets could be assured or colonialism enabled the ruled countries to be exploited, the general standard of living in the politically powerful countries might have been

raised. But the theory was exploded long ago. Unless there is equitable distribution of the goods of life there is no prosperity for the common man, nor any stability in the social order.

Though that is a lesson which some industrially advanced countries have now learnt, it is regrettable that businessmen in India, as a class, refuse to understand its significance. Neither the growth of production in recent years, nor the rise in productivity has served to rid the country of its poverty or to solve the problem of unemployment. The nation is not like a factory where, in order to give him better returns, the owner-employer just looks at his business chart to gauge production and productivity and decides to stimulate the raising of both. National income has gone up in recent years and so has per capita income. But, as the Finance Minister observed at the conclusion of his last budget speech, this is like a will o' the wisp. The reports of the Agricultural Labour Inquiry-apart from other investigations including the National Sample Survey-bring out the low level of average earnings in the country and among artisans even in urban areas. The bulk of these persons are born in debt, live in debt and die in debt. So adverse is the balance between their income and their expenditure.

The main reason for this state of perennial deficit economy is that the agricultural labourer, the small agriculturist and the town or village artisan engaged in the traditional industries-constituting nearly 50 per cent of the rual population —have no work for roughly five to six months out of twelve. Some of them, though engaged for larger periods, have no full day's work to bring them adequate earnings. Unless work is found for them, apart from the sociological consequences of enforced idleness, the standard of living must remain low and with the growth of population it will sink lower still. If the products of the traditional industries pursued as part-time occupations by the rural population or as full-time occupations for some months of the year by the surplus among them are to be displaced even still further by the manufactures of large-scale consumers' goods industries, the evil of unemployment will get aggravated and poverty deepened.

It is for this reason that, recently eminent statisticians, economists and sociologists have all been driven to the conclusion that two processes must be set in motion. The first that there should be an appreciable distribution of productive activity and the second that persons in the lowest income groups who are either very small agricultural labourers or petty artisans, should be enabled to get increased incomes from their own occupations or, failing that, should be provided with opportunities of earning income in their homes or as near these as póssible. It is only then that these under-privileged disadvantaged classes can benefit by programmes of planning, can get a little more to eat or to clothe themselves with. This process may not

give us "the snow-ball effect" which is claimed as consequential on the growth of large-scale industries-although one can question that view. However, it provides the only way which will enable increasing power to be dispersed among millions, helping in the diffusion of prosperity, the eradication of idleness and the standard of living as measured in terms of consumption by the lowest strata of our social fabric.

The prime need is to ensure the livelihood of the people. The path indicated by Shri Birla does not lead us to that goal as the experience of our intensive and extensive industrialisation over the last three to four decades clearly proves. We do want a diversified economy—and a progressive economy at that. But our concern should be that all get something and not that a few should progressively get more, -which is what happens under the existing pattern of industrialisation-thereby accentuating the social inequalities that are a blot on our civilisation. First things must come first.

VOICE OF DISTRESS

Considerable importance is attached to the meeting of representative Khadi workers and organisers in Ahmedabad on 1st and 2nd April. Over fifty of these workers who attended the meeting and participated in the discussions on the Ambar Charkha programme and the suitability of this Charkha as an efficient instrument to produce qualitatively good yarn, had no doubts on these twin aspects. Their experience was that, as the Charkha stood, it could answer all the claims made for it.

They reviewed the position in regard to the large- scale introduction of Ambar Charkhas in the country vis-a-vis the attitude of the Government of India. It was evident from the trend and temper of the discussions that a sense of disappointment and distress had come over Khadi organizations and workers because of the delays in Government's decision on the Ambar Charkha programme and in providing the necessary finance for the same. The intensity of this general feeling could be gauged from the general feeling that the programme would have to be undertaken independently of what the Government might or might not decide.

The declaration made at the end of the discussions said : "It is our opinion that there is no case for delaying the decision in respect of the Board's (All India Khadi and Village Industries) proposal for the current year pending consideration of the Ambar Charkha aspect of the common production programme for cotton textiles. This is essential because arrangements have to be taken in hand forthwith not only for the production of the Ambar Charkha sets that will be required during the current year, but also for continuing and extending the arrangements for instruction and training that are to be made if spinning with the Ambar Charkha is to be organised successfully."

As an earnest of their eagerness to carry through the Ambar Charkha programme they offered to wait on the Prime Minister and the Central Cabinet and furnish them with information on all matters connected with the programme and to convince them of its practicability.

TEXT OF RESOLUTION

The following is the text of the resolution passed by this meeting of Khadi workers :

"This meeting of the workers of Khadi Organisations in the country notes with satisfaction the wide and enthusiastic response which the Ambar Charkha programme of the Sarva Seva Sangh and the All India Khadi & Village Industries Board has evoked not only among those connected with the Khadi Organisations, but also among the general public—both rural and urban. It is most desirable, in our opinion, that full advantage should be taken of these very favourable conditions with a view to developing and extending the opportunities for employment and for the production of such an essential consumers' commodity as cloth with the aids of the Ambar Charkha. For this reason particularly, the meeting deems it its duty to give expression to its feelings of regret and disappointment at the inordinate delay that has taken place in according sanction to the proposal made by the Khadi Board in its resolution of 19th December 1955 for providing necessary funds and facilities for the year 1956–57 for the introduction of the Ambar Charkha as a part of the expansion of the normal Khadi activity of the Board.

In Pilot Centres

While experiments are being carried on in the Ahmedabad Textile Industry's Research Association for the examination and development of the Ambar Charkha, we wish to state that the efforts we have made to introduce the Ambar Charkha have met with very considerable success in several of the centres covered by our work as a part of the pilot scheme, and we have no hesitation, as a result of our experience of the last four months, in stating that the Ambar Charkha in its original form represents a very much better instrument for the production of handspun yarn in respect both of quality and quantity than the traditional of Kisan Charkha with which we have been carrying on this work for the last many years. We have observed that spinners have taken up the Ambar Charkha with a feeling of joy and satisfaction. Even though the minimum period of three months required for training and practice has not been completed, several of these spinners have been able to spin at the rate of eight to ten hanks during a day of 8 hours' effective working, taking into account all the processes. Hence we feel confident that, if they have a further period of three months for practice, a large number of spinners will not only be able to reach the optimum speed,

but even to exceed it. This result has been attained even though the training has been carried out with the help of instructors who themselves have not been able to find enough time for practice on the Ambar Charkha such as is considered necessary for completing the course. We may further mention that the yarn that has been spun has been got woven on the local handlooms and the weavers engaged in the work have found it very much better than the yarn produced on the traditional and Kisan Charkha and that they have shown improvement of 25 per cent in their output.

Improvements

While in Ahmedabad, for this meeting, some of us have visited the Ahmedabad Textile Industry's Research Association, and have seen the working of the improved model that has been adopted for the current year and we believe that our work will be very much facilitated when we introduce the adjustments that have been effected at the ATIRA. Those of us who have had discussions with the technologists who have evinced keen interest in this matter and who have suggested modifications and adjustments both in the implements and the processes, understand that the modifications and the adjustments are of a type that can be introduced without any particular difficulty in the Charkhas that have been supplied so far, so that the existing Charkhas can with ease be turned into the improved ones. We have also been given to understand that the structure of the model is so designed that there will be no difficulty in introducing further modifications and adjustments that may be devised hereafter. Hence there should be no misgivings while getting the Charkha sets manufactured in requisite numbers, that they will become obsolete and will have shortly to be discarded. Considering all this, it is our opinion that there is no cause for delaying decision in respect of the Board's proposal for the current year, pending consideration of the Ambar Charkha aspect of the common production programme for cotton textiles. This is essential because arrangements have to be taken in hand forthwith not only for the production of the Ambar Charkha sets that will be required during the current year, but also for continuing and extending the arrangements for instruction and training that are to be made, if spinning with the aid of Ambar Charkha is to be organised successfully.

Question of Subsidy

Our attention has been drawn to the discussions regarding the economic and financial implications of our proposal, especially, in regard to the grant of subsidy. We would point out in this connection that if the subsidy that is given at present, viz: 0-4-0 in a rupee, is continued, it will suffice to meet the requirements of the Khadi programme on the basis of the Charkha which has been adopted for the current year. This subsidy forms 55 per cent

of the carding and spinning wage and 36 per cent of the total wage, i.e. upto the stage of weaving. The production is roughly on a par with the proportion of the subsidy to the wages in the production of Khadi with the traditional Charkha. But it may be pointed out that the price of Khadi produced with the aid of Ambar Charkha, after making allowance for the subsidy, will be near about the price of mill cloth. We may add that the subsidy represented by the rebate paid on the scale of handloom cloth constitutes a much higher percentage than the weavers' wages.

The subsidy is calculated on the basis of an output of 16 hanks from roving to yarn and 8 hanks from cotton to yarn for effective work for 8 hours. In the operations spreading from spinning to roving, the optimum pace of production is easily attained and even from cotton to yarn, we can state from our experience that, with proper training and practice, it would not be beyond the capacity of the spinners. In any case, we may make it clear that, according to our estimate of the position, there will be no need to increase the subsidy in future as we are confident that we shall be able to increase the efficiency of the working by imparting better training, allowing a little longer period for practice under proper direction, arranging for servicing of the Charkha, and providing cotton of the required staple. There will thus be no misgiving about the demand for the higher subsidy arising subsequently. We wish, on the contrary, to see the activity developed and extended on the basis of its inherent strength.

Ambar Cloth Is Khadi

One further point we wish to clarify is that the Board has proposed in its Five Years' programme that while during the first two years, it will utilise the yarn for production of Khadi, from the third year onwards, the yarn will be offered for consumption to the Handloom Weaving Industry. As a result of our experience during the last three months we believe that there will be no necessity to sell any yarn. The Sarva Seva Sangh has now taken the decision that cloth produced out of the yarn turned out on the Ambar Charkha, will be treated as Khadi and there should, therefore, be little difficulty in marketing the increased volume of cloth turned out, especially as the cost of production will have been brought down considerably. Further we are confident that there will be a greater consumption of this Khadi in the areas of production and it will be our constant endeavour to stimulate and encourage this tendency. Besides, the price of Khadi will be progressively reduced as the efficiency and quantity of the production of Khadi with the Ambar Charkha yarn increase, and we have every reason to hope that in the third year, the price of Khadi, after making allowance for the subsidy granted, will be more or less on a par with that of the corresponding mill cloth.

Ready To Explain

We have attempted to clarify our position in respect of various matters

pertaining to the Ambar Charkha programme for 1956–57 and we trust that as a result, the financial and other facilities required for conducting the necessary operation and continuing the work already initiated under the pilot scheme will be made available to us without further delay. In case, however, there are any aspects of the programme on which further information or clarification is deemed necessary, we shall be happy to have the opportunity, through a small deputation consisting of a few among the representatives of the Organisations assembled on this occasion, of meeting the Prime Minister and other Members of the Cabinet and satisfying them on questions that may arise in the course of their examination of the Khadi Board's programme".

MINISTER MEETS THE BOARD

In the last issue, (March, 1956), of 'Khadi-Gramodyog' we published the talks given by Shri U. N. Dhebar, Congress President, and Shri Gulzarilal Nanda, Minister for Planning, before the meeting of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board, held recently in Delhi. Shri K. C. Reddi, Minister for Production, also attended the meeting and addressed the members. His address is given below :

"This Board was set up about three years ago and I am not using any conventional language when I say that the work to the credit of the Board is one for sincere congratulation and gratification. From what I have seen and heard, the work of the Board has been developing gradually and it is evidenced by the quantity of Khadi which has been produced during the last three years. It has been increasing from year to year and the sphere of other village industries also has been showing good progress. As your Chairman pointed out, there was no opportunity for the Board to prepare the First Five Year Plan, but now you are in a position to chalk out a comprehensive plan for the Second Five Year period.

We are now in a critical stage in so far as the future work of the Board is concerned. You will not expect me to go into the general aspects of the Khadi and village industries programme and the great place—vital place—it occupies in the national economy. I think it is agreed by every one concerned that in the circumstances in which we are placed today, the greatest emphasis will have to be laid on what has come to be known as the hand and household industries. The Plan Frame has referred to it in no uncertain terms. I think the Panel of Ecomomists who considered it, has also, by and large, endorsed the Plan Frame. The spokesmen of the Government have stressed the importance of hand and household industries and have said in unequivocal terms that, from the view-point of the problem of unemployment which is a massive problem-if we have got to solve this problem to our satisfaction-there is no escape from our giving the maximum attention to the development of household and hand industries. I am just stating what is well-known and what has been given expression to by almost all. The only question is how shall we implement this objective, how shall we get the support of all concerned to such programmes as we may draw up. There might be slight difference of opinion and there might be different approaches.

I Agree

I would like to say that I am in agreement with the approach you have

made and with what you have said on many of the problems we have to face. Regarding the relations between the Ministry and the Board, I entirely endorse the suggestion that the Ministry should be in as close a touch as possible with the Board. In fact, if I can possibly attend all the meetings of your Board and take as much part as possible in the discussions, it will enable me and the Ministry with which I am connected at the present moment, to understand the various aspects of the problems we have discussed and for the Ministry to come to quick decisions on the various proposals submitted to it for sanction. So, I certainly value every opportunity of contacting you and in taking part in the deliberations of the Board. I will also keep in mind the suggestion that, if I am unable to come, the Deputy Ministry may be asked to participate in the meetings of the Board.

One aspect to which your Chairman referred I would like to briefly touch upon, and it is this: the size of the Plan in the Second Five year period. He referred to the plans of the Central Boards and said that their cost would be Rs. 700 to 800 crores. If I may say so, in the last few years the problem has not been so much the difficulty of allocating funds for these programmes. I have found from a study of the figures of amounts sanctioned and amounts spent that it has been more a case of not being able to spend all the allocations that have been made. It has been the case in the various states and I have found the same in the case of the Centre also. I am not referring to the Khadi and Village Industries Board in particular.

Our experience of the last few years has been that we have been asking for more allotments and when allotments were made, there were considerable lapses. I am sure that your Board will go into this aspect; perhaps it has already gone into it and has formed its own opinion of the matter. It seems to me that one of the reasons for this unhappy position is that we have not got the requisite organistion to implement our various programmes. There may be other reasons. That is an aspect into which, I would venture to suggest, you should go into.

The Ambar Charkha

With regard to the Khadi and Village Industries Board also, I think there have been fairly large lapses in regard to certain industries, perhaps more in the sphere of village industries. I would not have mentioned this so particularly on this occasion but for the fact that one of the main points raised in connection with implementation of the Ambar Charkha programme is the one which has relation to this aspect. When we were discussing the other day about the possibilities of the Ambar Charkha Programme, one of the most important points raised was that, assuming the Ambar Charkha programme is good, assuming the results obtained so far are satisfactory, assuming we are prepared on behalf of the handloom

organisation to take over all the Ambar Charkha yarn, assuming that we even agree to the subsidies necessary in order to take up this programme, is there sufficient organisational facilities to implement this programme on such a vast scale? It is a question that is prominently raised. That is to say, whether we have got an organisation ready for manufacturing all the 17 lakhs or 18 lakhs or 25 lakhs charkhas that are required in relation to this programme and to train the spinners and whether the requisite number of spinners will be forthcoming.

In regard to the handloms, there are the weavers. There is no necessity to bring in new weavers. But with regard to spinners, will you be in a position to recruit 25 lakhs of people in order to take to this spinning ? They may be in the villages. Whether, at the time you introduce this charkha, the requisite number of people will come forward to work on these charkhas, we do not know. Purchase of cotton and other preliminary operations and, then, marketing and for so many other features of this programme, is our organisation ready ? That is the question asked. However attractive the programme may be, on this account, at the end of four or five years, we may find ourselves short of yarn to feed all the handlooms. So this organisational aspect is one which requires the Board's immediate attention.

I have, of course, received detailed proposals and also the Board's five-year programme. I have seen it; but we have to satisfy, if I may say so, those who have doubts in regard to this matter and assure them that we have the various organisational aspects worked out and we are confident that we are in a position to deliver the goods at the end of the 4 or 5-year period by way of producing about 400 million pounds of yarn that is required to produce about 1,400 or 1,500 million yards of cloth.

The Economics of It

Then in regard to the Ambar Charkha programme, I would like to refer to one or two other aspects. Members of Parliament and certain other Departments of Government want to know the economics of the Ambar Charkha. That is to say, they want to know what will be the cost of production of yarn on the Ambar Charkha, what will be the cost of production of cloth woven out of Ambar yarn and what will be the amount of subsidy that we will have to incur if we have to market all the Ambar Charkha cloth during the next five year period. There are certain papers which the Board has circulated which give some figures. With regard to quality the claim is made that it is quite satisfactory and compares favourably with the mill yarn. But the question is, in what respect this quality could be improved and also the technological aspect, viz., to what extent, within what limits, we can improve the Ambar Charkha over its present performance. I have no doubt that the Board will go into these aspects.

Regarding the cost of yarn and the cost of cloth, I know it is linked with the amount of wages which are ultimately decided to be paid to the spinners and weavers. If the wage to be given to the spinners is to be twelve annas per day of eight hours, then the price of yarn and cloth will be high. If the wage is eight annas, the cost of yarn and cloth will be less. But I imagine you would not consider any proposal to have wages less than twelve annas for the spinner and, perhaps, four annas for the weaver per yard of cloth woven.

Wanted More Information

I was referring to certain economic aspects of Ambar Charkha. We have got to work out these figures in greater detail and be in a position to tell Members of Parliament and others just exactly what are the facts. We had two meetings with Members of Parliament and the Standing Committee on Cottage Industries and at both these meetings we could not come to any definite conclusion about the Ambar Charkha programme because all the facts were not available to us. Of course, there are certain facts which the Board can give. But other facts which we want in respect of mill spindles, in respect of new licences that have been issued, how many of them have been installed, how many are likely to be installed in the near future and when these spindles work on one shift basis, two shift basis or even three shift basis, how much yarn they will be producing, etc., all these were required. They are being collected.

In your blue book (Five-Year Plan) you have indicated that the subsidy requirements will be about 120 crores in five years. A note has been circulated in which the subsidy amount is mentioed as 82 crores. In one statement I find that in order to raise the sum of monney that is required towards subsidy, six pies or so per yard will be the additional excise duty to be levied on mill cloth and in some other place it is said to be ten pies. What are the correct figures ? The other day when we were discussing this subject, the Finance Minister said the subsidies required for this Ambar Charkha programme over a five-year period would be Rs. 150 crores at the rate of thirty crores per year. It was on the basis of the figures given in one of your notes.

These are some of the detailed aspects which the Board has to go into. So we have to decide, the Board will have to decide, as to the wage that is to be paid–twelve annas or fourteen annas. Then on the basis of that, what will be the price of the cloth and what will be the amount of subsidies that will have to be paid by the Government.

Is It Khadi ?

I take it that you will call this Ambar Charkha cloth Ambar Khadi and not by any other name. I suppose there is not much of a controversy about this matter, but it seems the Board as such has not yet made up its mind. I am referring to this because, according to the present policy of the Government, there is a rebate of three annas per rupee on the

sale of Khadi and if Ambar Charkha cloth is considered to be Khadi, then this rebate will have perhaps to be made available. I think, on the three annas basis, the subsidy will come to fifty crores or sixty crores. This will not be a case of thinking of some fresh policy; it will be an extended application of what is in vogue today in respect of Khadi.

I would like to say that we are on the eve of a revolution in regard to spinning and I imagine that this Ambar Charkha programme will have to be considered during the next three or four months. As the Board is aware, we have sanctioned a pilot scheme at a cost of about thirty lakhs of rupees. The programme is to manufacture about six thousand Ambar Charkhas and it is expected, as it has been stated already, the results of this pilot programme will be available by April, 1956. I do not know if the results can be made available earlier but if that can be done it will help us to come to a decision on this important matter earlier.

First Year's Programme

That brings me to the other matter, i.e., the proposal that you made, namely, to sanction the necessary finances for the Ambar Charkha programme during 1956-57 whatever the decision with regard to the full second five year period. I do not really know what are the implications of this suggestion. I have not given my full thought to it. It is difficult for me to understand how this one year programme for 1956-57 can be started or can be considered independent of the five-year programme that we have in view. I fancy that the one year programme for 1656-57 is the same as the first year's programme of the Five Year Plan programme. I do not know if I am putting the matter correctly. It seems to me that is the position. It amounts to this: Whatever the fortune of the full Five Year programme, you must start with the programme for 1956-57. That is, we have to divide the Five Year Programme into two programmes. The first year programme and the next four years' programme. Your suggestion is that we decide on the first year programme right now.

I may inform the Board that so far as we are concerned, we have already taken action to recommend the acceptance of this Five Year programme. We have written to the Planning Commission. Hitherto the approach has been that unless the Five Year Plan programme is finalised, there is no meaning in making our allotment for the first year only. This is, however, a matter which needs careful consideration."

MUSINGS OF THE MONTH

(*By: THE EDITOR*)

The longer a decision on the Ambar Charkha programme of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board is delayed, the more impatient do Khadi workers and institutions in the country become. They find that it is a strange situation in which an element of uncertainty is introduced in regard to a programme which seeks to bring economic benefit to millions of people, while the issue of licences for augmenting production of yarn in the mill has gone on apace. Acording to reports licences have been issued to the tune of 2.1 million spindles, though the Karve Committee had recommended that there should be no expansion of cloth or yarn production in the mill sector pending final assessment of the potentialities of the Ambar Charkha.

The Committee which was appointed by the Planning Commission to examine the plans of the several Central Boards dealing with small-scale and village industries and prepare an integrated programme of development for these industries, had come to the definite conclusion that, with the installed capacity in the mills and the licences for new spindles issued till the time of the appointment of the Committee, there was enough capacity in the mill sector to produce all the possible additional requirement of yarn and cloth till the end of 1957. It was the view of that Committee that by that time the potentialities of the Ambar Charkha would have been determined. It was thus only reasonable to expect that the recommendation of such an authoritative Committee would be considered before any action was taken on behalf of the Government. It is, however, sad to recollect that no such procedure seems to have been followed and action continued to be taken in the name of the Government to issue new licences for additional spindleage.

An Anomaly

A development of this nature naturally created a feeling that there was no scope for evolving a common production programme for the textile industry. The All India Khadi and Village Industries Board took note of this decision and invited the attention of the Government to this anomaly. The anomaly is the more pronounced especially when, under the direction of the Government of India itself, extensive field tests with Ambar Charkha were continuing. Justice required that at least until the results of these tests were made available, there would be no action taken in regard to the expansion of the capacity of spinning or of weaving in the mill

sector. Obviously the course of prudence was discarded because of the hue and cry that was raised—and still continues to be raised—by powerful vested intresets of an impending cloth famine. The recent price movements in the stock markets and the alleged depletion of stocks with mills were exaggerated to reinforce this scare. The propaganda machine was geared up to make a fallacy appear a fact. In this propaganda the Ambar Charkha was held up to ridicule and condemnation. Its economics were questioned. The cost of the programme was described as "high" and "a waste of scarce resources." The outcry by vested interests seemed to have resulted in setting aside the very weighty observations of the Karve Committee on the cloth position in the country and what it is likely to be during the Second Plan period. This is what the Committee said :

Cloth Consumption

"Next to food, cloth is the most important item in the budget of an average household and according to the available data regarding proportion of consumer expenditure on cloth to the total expenditure, accounts for about 8 per cent of the consumer expenditure as against about 40 per cent on foodgrains and pulses. Sufficient information regarding elasticity of consumer demand of cloth is not available. On the basis of data collected by the National Sample Survey (Fourth Round), the elasticity appears to be somewhat less than unity, i. e., a given increase in consumer expenditure does not seem to lead to proportionate increase in the expenditure on cloth. For estimating the increase in consumer demand for cloth during the second five year plan, the principal factor to be taken into account along with elasticity of demand is the increase in per capita consumer expenditure. On the basis of 25 per cent. increase in national income, estimated to accrue by the end of the plan period and allowing for savings and the increase in population, we consider that the incease in total consumer outlay might be of the order of 20 per cent over the plan period. Allowing for a liberal margin in calculations, we have taken the estimated increase in demand for cloth to be somewhat higher than the increase in total consumer outlay. Assuming that consumer demand for cloth will increase by 20 per cent, during the plan period, the demand for cloth for internal consumption may be estimated to increase to about 7150 million yards by 1960-61. Taking exports at about 1000 million yards the total demand at the end of the plan period may be estimated at about 8150 million yards, i.e., about 1400 million yards above the level reached in 1955. On the basis of 25 per cent increase in demand by the end of the plan period, the increase in demand during the plan period will be about 1700 million yards. This, in our view, might be taken to represent the maximum limit to which

the total demand could be expected to rise during the plan period."

Yarn Needs

Having stated the cloth position so clearly and without equivocation, the Committee discusses the question of yarn supply thus :

"The total additional requirements of yarn for a five year phased programme of handloom production are estimated at 375 million lbs., on the basis of an additional requirement of 75 million lbs. in each of the five years. With the mill spindleage already in commission and taking into account the recently licensed spindleage which may, on reasonable estimate, be installed, the additional yarn supply which might be available for the handloom industry is estimated at about 150 million lbs. by the end of 1957-58, i. e., just about equal to the estimated additional yarn requirements.

"In comformity with our basic approach to the question of developmsnt of village and small-scale industries, we would like to emphasise that production of yarn required for the additional production of cloth during the Plan period should be organised on a decentralised basis to the greatest possible extent. At present cotton spinning on decentralised basis is being carried on mostly by the ordinary spinning wheel (Charkha). If yarn supply for the Plan period has to be organised on decentralised basis it is clear that a higher level of technique than has already been attained, will have to be introduced for cotton spinning equipment. Considerable thought has already been given to the devising of a more efficient equipment, either manually operated or power driven, and experiments have also been made with the newly invented spinning units. Among these, mention may be made of the manually operated spinning unit, described as Ambar Charkha. ...We understand that a technical examination of Ambar Charkha is being conducted with a view to testing its mechanical structure and the various aspects of its productive activity such as degree of cleanliness of yarn, count variation, tensile strength etc. The General Secretary of the Sarva Seva Sangh informed us that the Sangh had a programme of introducing Ambar Charkha in about 100 centres by the end of April 1956 to test the suitability of Ambar Charkha yarn for handloom industry and the acceptability of handloom cloth woven from such yarn to the consumer."

Tests over

These tests are now over. Assessment of the experiments and the data is now in progress. The Government of India has appointed a Committee to examine these and make its recommendations by the end of this month. While these are developments which are in accord with the stand taken up by the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board, nearly 21 lakhs mill spindles have been licensed and

must be in the process of materialising. The installed capacity in the textile mill sector is already about 11 million spindles capable of producinq 5,285 million yards of cloth. When the additional spindles materialise, the mills will be in a position to turn out over 6,300 million yards of cloth. The time normally required for them to materialise in to production is about 18 months. By the third quarter of 1957, that is to say, the mills will begin production in full swing and by the end of that year they will be throwing into the market very much more cloth than will be required. No doubt 1000 or 1200 million yards of this production, we will be reminded, will be set off against export needs. But we already know what are the prospects in this direction. Recent trends in this respect are none too encouraging and it will be a miracle if the country, with all the incentives of the Export Promotion Council and Export Credit Guarantee schemes, can manage to keep up an average of 700 or 750 millon yards. The total requirement of cloth at the end of the Second Plan period, as the Karve Committee's very liberal estimate says, will be no more than an additional 1700 million yards, or a total 7150 million yards. The handloom industry's production at the end of 1955 is 1450 million yards. The additional allotment to this industry will, in the circumstances be no more than 100 million yards or, if the wild expectations of the export target is reached, 400 or 500 million yards. The yarn requirement over the present supply, for the handlooms will then be only 125 million lbs. This can easily be met from the additional mill production. In consequence, the need for the Ambar Charkha programme will not arise !

Khadi Workers Meet

It is developments such as these that were discussed at a meeting of prominent Khadi organizers and workers in the country in Ahmedabad early this month. Fifty of such workers had come from different parts of the country to take stock of the situation and to exchange experiences in regard to the work of the Ambar Charkha pilot programme. These representative Khadi workers were of the unanimous opinion that such results as had accrued as a result of the expriments in the 100 and odd Parishramalayas, only supported the correctness of the claim that had been made for the Ambar Charkha. While, during this period of field tests and experiments, certain improvements had been effected, these improvements in no way affected the structure or the mechanism of the Ambar Charkha. The improvements were also such as could easily be effected in the new charkhas that would be manufactured.

There was however, no reason to postpone Government's acceptance, at least of the first year's programme as presented by the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board and the Akhil Bharat Sarva Seva Sangh. For, the Charkha, as it stood, had established the

claims made for it in respect of productivity and efficiency. The menacing unemployment problem and growing economic distress in the country-side demanded the acceptance of that programme and measures to implement it. That programme envisaged, after all, the production of 2 lakhs Ambar Charkhas and introduction of 1.20 lakhs Ambar Charkhas only. Even if a decision on the wider aspect of a common textile production programme took time, the programme could have been endorsed as a part of the extended Khadi production programme. The provision of resources for the manufacture of 10000 or, as now reported, 22000 Ambar Charkhas did not meet the needs of the situation. These Khadi workers, whose reaction is published elsewhere, considered the treatment accorded to the Ambar Charkha programme as tardy and unhelpful.

Their Decision

Not to be disappointed, however, they thought of extending their work through public support and they believed that there was enough patriotic spirit among the people which would respond to a cause which sought to provide work and bread to that large section of the population which suffered from a lack of both. They were not opposed to improved techniques; they welcomed them. They were not opposed to new technological innovations or their adaptation to village tools and implements; their search continues in this direction. All these are concomitants of the process of development. They believe in the wise saying: "Life is not all logic." Nor is it all economics and technology. It is above all these. It concerns humanity and its values transcend men, money and machines. Development must mean not only the preservation of these higher values of life and living but work to promote them. Where this is not done, planning becomes purposeless. A purposeless plan betrays poverty in thought and understanding. The Ambar Charkha programme seeks in a small way, to preserve and promote the higher values. It seeks to bring about a resurgence of social and economic organisation, adopting as it develops newer and newer devices to accord with developing skills of the people and their capacity to handle them. Technological revolutions are not overnight miracles. They are the result of patient research, experiment and experience. In their occurrence they are conditioned by the needs of individual countries, its demographic trends and social inhibitions and organisations. Undirected and unplanned, technological revolutions can easily result in disaster instead of prosperity and progress. Higher technology has its use only so long as it facilitates social progress and welfare. In a country which is underdeveloped and is largely undeveloped, its introduction may be wanton wasteful use of scarce resources. We can ill afford to ignore, in this connection, the lessons of history. We can ill afford to forget "Boston" and the morals of

"Grapes of Wrath". We can ill afford to reject the message of the "burning of wheat stocks." These are the "profits of progress." Across the road of undirected, unplanned, unregulated progress these words are written in bold letters: "When wealth accumulates, man decays." We may ignore them only at our peril.

Correct Prospective

So, when we talk of the technological improvements that are taking place in the world, we should also develop the correct perspective which should inform adaptation of modern technology and atomic power in the development of productive organisation and activity. What should be this perspective? For the Second Five Year Plan the Government has allotted huge outlays for industrial development. Much of this outlay is for the development of what are called heavy industries. But it has not been made clear what role these heavy industries will play and the manner and pattern of industrial development they will foster. These are fundamental aspects about which there should be no confusion or uncertainty. The nation is pledged to establish in this country a Socialist Co-operative Commonwealth. There is also general agreement in the country that organisation of industrial production should be on the decentralized method. Will the heavy industries envisaged be modelled to produce the machinery and tools for small decentralized units of production? Has a proper study been made about the type and size of the tools and implements that would be required for such units of production? If serious thought is not given to these different aspects, launching on a bold and big programme of heavy industries would land us in a very ugly situation and compel us to take to a type of industrial organisation and production which have done our people little good. To be forewarned is to be fore-armed. To repeat the need for improved techniques and tools and the use of power in cottage or village production is only to beg the question. Such repetition pre-supposes that the protagonists of Khadi and village industries are opposed to the use of power and the introduction of improved tools and techniques. The fact is that they are not. The evolution of the Ambar Charkha, the use of power operated machines in the hand-made paper industry, the use of lathes and electric motors in the manufacture of implements and their parts—all these go to show how eager are these to avail of the best means that could be supplied to the small producer in the country. Their only anxiety is that the machine should not grind the man and that it comes to him as aid to his own development. The problem is not whether improved techniques and tools should or should not be introduced to augment the productivity of the small producer and the quality of his product. The problem really is how fast and in what manner these changes in the modes of

production should or can be effected. In the first place there is not adequate generation and supply of power in the country. It is said that at the end of the Second Five Year Plan period this will extend to barely 10,000 villages and we have 5,50,000 villages in our country. There is not adequate manufacture of quality tools for the small producer. Nor are there enough facilities of training and technical education of the millions of our small producers. Against these stark facts, all talks about technology and power will be no more than beating in the air. What we, therefore, say is that let us go forward at a pace at which we can all move forward. What is important is that we do move forward. Technology will follow the movement of production. Let us not, in our worship of technocracy, put the cart before the horse. Such talk neither helps the spread of productive activity in the country, nor helps those who seek to usher in a technological revolution.

Face the Facts

All questions of technology and technological improvements in the means of production, that is to say, should be governed by the level of technological skills available in the country and the ability of the producers to absorb and adopt that technology. In the countryside we have an immense installed capacity for the production of articles in general and common demand such as food, cloth, oil, footwear and the like. No doubt much of this installed capacity is of the traditional type. Tools and implements have remained what they were for lack of incentives and, in many fields, because of positive discouragement. Had those engaged in the pursuit of the occupations for which those tools and implements had been devised been allowed to continue in production without interruption, those tools and implements would not have remained what they at present are. It is this aspect of technology and technological development that is often ignored in the heat of controversies over the techniques in production. With the direct interest of the State in the reorganization and development of village industries, a new climate of progress has developed in the countryside. The improvements now taking place in the Charkha, on the one hand, and those in the implements used in processing paddy, production of paper, crushing of oil by the ghanis, utilisation of the components of the carcass, manufacture of matches, bee-keeping and the processing of honey and utilisation of non-edible oil seeds for preparation of soaps, on the other, are signs of the growing interest of the village population to go back to their occupations and to effect improvements in their working conditions and tools. This climate must be fostered by timely incentives and active encouragement through appropriate aids and policies. The Ambar Charkha has posed this problem in the most crucial manner.

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VILLAGE INDUSTRIES IN THE SECOND PLAN

(*By*: VAIKUNTH L. MEHTA)

Although the proposed financial provision for village and small-scale industries is larger according to the Draft Outline of the Second Five Year Plan than the corresponding provision in the First Five Year Plan, it would be incorrect to conclude that the place of these industries in our national economy was inadequately appreciated when the First Plan was drawn up. In the Chapter on "Village Industries," the Planning Commission made the observation that "the development of village industries should be as much a matter of State action as the increase of agricultural production." These industries had, the Planning Commission emphasised, a central place in rural development programmes, since they could be of considerable help in arresting the increasing pressure of population on the land.

It may be pertinent, at the outset, to examine the factors that may have been responsible for the increased size of the provision for this sector of our economy, to nearly seven times what it was according to the First Plan and over one quarter of the provision for the highly capital-intensive industries which comprised the public sector and for which a provision of Rs. 691 crores has been made. The first among these factors is the fact that for the development of this sector of our economy we have, during the last five years, tried to build up the nucleus of an organization, the sole duty of which would be to promote small scale industrial development on well-considered approved lines and in accordance with a well-devised programme of work.

Six Boards

The whole field of village and small scale industries is now covered by six All-India Boards, namely, the Coir, the Small Scale Industries, the Handloom, the Silk, the Handicrafts and the Khadi and Village Industries Boards. In 1952, only two of these Boards were in existence; and even these had still to settle down to work. An All-India Handicrafts Board had just then been started and plans for the development of the handloom weaving industry on an All-India basis were taking shape. Neither the Coir nor the Silk industry came in for any specific attention at the hands of the Planning Commission. Some problems relating to small-scale industries had undoubtedly come in for mention in a section entitled "Small Industries".

However, it is only after the publication of the report of the International Team of Experts constituted in collaboration with the Ford Foundation that a regular scheme of work was conceived for the introduction and expansion of various small-scale industries.

In the Chapter on Village Industries of the Report on[the First Plan, the Planning Commission urged the creation of an organisation which would give special attention to the problems of village industries and help to create favourable conditions for action by State Governments, Constructive Worker's Organisations, and Village Artisans Cooperatives. It is in response to this recommendation that the Central Government constituted early in 1953, the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board which, though outside the departmental machinery of Government, was empowered to draw up and execute programmes for the development of Khadi and other Village Industries.

State Boards

Inasmuch as the primary responsibility for carrying out the programmes of village industries rests, according to the Constitution, with State Governments, the Planning Commission suggested the establishment in the States of similar organisation for working in collaboration with the Central Body. Pursuant to this suggestion, the All India Board moved State Governments to constitute Boards for their States and to empower these to execute programme of work. Initially, it was only Bombay State that had a Board charged with these duties. Today the number of such Boards is 23. Special enactments have been passed in 6 States conferring statutory authority on these Boards. A Bill to constitute a Commission at the Centre to exercise similar statutory powers has already been introduced in Parliament. It is the setting up of this organisational machinery of the type contemplated by the Planning Commission, both at the Centre and in the States, that has presumably weighed with the Planning authorities in providing for an expansion of productive activities in this particular field.

Employment

Another factor that may have weighed similarly, is the importance now attaching to them for the purpose of enlarging the scope for diversified employment. Not that this aspect was likely to have been overlooked when the First Five Year Plan was formulated. If we turn to the chapter on "employment" in the Report on that Plan, we find that the development of these industries was expected to provide additional full employment for 20 lakhs persons and fuller employment to 30 lakhs underemployed persons as against 7.5 lakhs to be absorbed in agriculture, 4 lakhs in industries, 12.5 lakhs in irrigation and power projects and 10 lakhs on roads. But it is obvious from a study of the Plan that its main emphasis was on the rapid intensive development of our agricultural resources so as to achieve as quickly as possible self-sufficiency

in the supply of food grains and raw materials, such as cotton, for our industries.

The Plan Frame

The discussions that preceded the formulation of the Plan Frame for the Second Five Year Plan Period indicate that the main considerations for the next quinquennium will be the diversification of our economy, the attainment of self-sufficiency in the supply of certain essential capital goods and the expansion of employment opportunities on a large scale. In his draft recommendations for the formulation of the Second Five Year Plan, Prof. P. C. Mahalanobis linked up the expansion of heavy industries with the development of what he termed household and hand industries one to balance the other in the matter of utilization of financial resources and the provision of employment. The former, being capital-intensive, would give relatively little scope for employment, but would generate a demand for consumer goods which they would not be able to supply. This increased demand, Prof. Mahalanobis urged, must be met by increasing the supply of such goods as much as possible through the expansion of household or hand production. This, he added, would quickly generate a large volume of work all over the country.

The Panel of Economists consulted by the Planning Commission generally endorsed this view. It did not contemplate any expansion of the capacity of large-scale industries producing consumer goods, because, in its opinion, in the first place the nation should concentrate its scarce resources of foreign exchange and essential materials on the setting up of heavy industries and economic overheads. But more important in its view was the consideration that it was essential to provide more employment opportunities for those already engaged in the small-scale and cottage industries as well as to find employment for the new additions to the labour force every year. Hence the Panel pointed out the emphasis that should attach to small-scale industries and cottage industries in the Second Plan.

The Karve Committee

The next stage in the process of formulation of the Plan is represented by the appointment by the Planning Commission of the Village and Small-scale Industries Committee (popularly known as the Karve Committee) to prepare an integrated plan for the development of these industries in the light of the recommendations made in the Memorandum of the Panel of Economists and the provision made in the Draft Plan Frame. The objectives which the Committee was called upon to keep in mind were :

(i) that the bulk of the increased production during the Plan period of consumer goods in common demand has to be provided by the village and small-scale Industries;

(ii) That employment provided by these industries should progressively increase; and

(iii) that production and marketing in these industries is organised, in the main, on co-operative lines.

The Karve Committee's recommendations cover the plans of the six all India Boards referred to earlier and, apparently, form the basis of the integrated plan for village and small-scale industries that is formulated in the Draft Outline.

The basic approach as set forth in the Draft Outline is almost the same as of the Planning Commission. Firstly, it is stated, during the period of the Second Plan, care should be taken to avoid further technological unemployment such as occurs especially in traditional industries when this field of production is taken up by large-scale industries. A systematic and well-organised effort should be made, secondly, to provide for as large a measure of employment as possible during the Second Five Year period through different village and small-scale industries. Lastly, the productive effort should be so organized as to provide the basis for the structure of an essentially decentralized society and also for progressive economic development at a fairly rapid rate.

A Crucial Sector

As the Planning Commission observes in the Chapter headed "Approach to the Second Five Year Plan," as a result of the re-thinking that has already been done on this subject, it is evident that, from the point of rural development as well as the creation of new employment opportunities, cottage and small-scale industries present a crucial sector of the economy. To quote its words : "The need to promote, modernise and reorganise these industries is paramount. The problem is one of devising effective policies as well as of making suitable organisational arrangements of unregulated haphazard application of modern techniques in all spheres of production is apt to create or aggravate technological unemployment. There is need for regulation here."

It is this subject of regulatory action that often becomes a matter of controversy. In the first place, as the Planning Commission remarks, to adopt any measures in this behalf, as part of a social policy, should not be interpreted as a freezing of existing techniques or should not indicate any preference for inefficient techniques. It only means that conditions have to be created in which modern techniques can be introduced in graduated stages and that the transition from one stage to another is orderly. Besides, hitherto benefits from improved technology, ordinarily, accrue principally to enterpreneurs and individuals with resources, for it is only these that can afford to incur the additional capital outlay involved. It is to avoid this form of exploitation that in the "Directives of State Policy" it is laid down that the reorganisation of village industries and crafts should be preferably on a cooperative basis.

Policy Needs

While outlining its programme for village industries in the First Five Year Plan, the Planning Commission laid stress on the need for supporting it by specific measures of assistance as well as by State Policy. The former covers arrangements for the supply of raw materials, the provision of credit, the organisation of marketing, the introduction of new tools and techniques. It also includes the promotion of research and the provision of facilities for training.. For the entire group of industries falling within the purview of the six All-India Boards, the integrated plan accepted by the Karve Committee provided for an outlay of Rs. 260 crores. The proposed allocation has been brought down by the Planning Commisstion to Rs.200 crores. This is exclusive, however, of the provision for working capital aggregating to Rs.65 crores that would be needed during the Five Year Plan period. The Planning Commission expects that with the developments that are taking place, the requisite finance will be available from cooperative societies under arrangements now in process of being worked out by the Reserve Bank of India. The assurance has been held out, however, that in the initial stages the necessary resources, especially for production organised cooperatively, may be provided by Government, presumably on the recommendation of, if not through the agency of the various All India and State Boards.

It is the regulatory aspects that inhere a common production programme which sometime, occasion misgivings in certain quarters. Such programme may comprehend, as was indicated in the First Five Year Plan :

1. Reservation of spheres of production
2. Non-expansion of the capacity of large-scale industries;
3. Imposition of a cess on large-scale industries.

In that plan it was specifically proposed, for instance, by the Planning Commission that "in the interest of rural employment and to ensure better nutrition, the Government should now formulate a programme for replacing the huller type of rice mill by organised hand-pounding of rice." The Karve Committe while generally endorsing this particular proposal—to which it may be added incidentally no effect was given during the intervening three years—has formulated similar proposals principally for the handloom weaving industry, the ghani oil industry, the cottage match industry and the gur industry. While the difficulties inherent in the determination of economic policy with far-reaching consequences can well be appreciated, the need for taking decisions and announcing the consequential changes in policy cannot be emphasised too strongly.

Until unemployment is liquidated or brought under control, Prof. Mahalanobis pointed out in his Draft Recommendations, it is necessary to prevent

competition between factories and household or hand industries by not permitting investment to be made in such consumer goods factories as would prevent expansion or lead to a shrinkage in emloyment in the hand industries. That regulatory action intended to confine all increases in consumption goods in the Second Five Year period, to household and hand industries, is also a line of action favoured by the Panel of Economists.

It may be that, as is observed in the Draft Outline, conflict in this sphere "relates not so much to principles as to the concrete problems thrown up when they are sought to be applied in given situations." But the basic fact has to be accepted that, as pointed out by the Finance Minister in his last Budget speech, our problem is not merely one of raising the statistical average of per capita income which could easily be a will o' the wisp. It is, as he emphasised, one of raising the lowest incomes. How can this best be done? For an answer I turn to what Prof. D. R. Gadgil has observed in his memorandum to the National Development Council. The improvements we seek in the distribution of incomes and in the standards of living of the poorest classes can, he avers, be best brought out by an appropriate distribution of constructive activities. Hence, the only way according to him, of bettering the condition of most disadvantaged classes is to give them, as far as possible, opportunities of obtaining an adequate income in their own occupations and where this cannot be done, by giving them employment near their own houses. Decentralisation of economic activity can be urged on other grounds as well; but it is no academic preference for the theory of decentralisation but the stark facts of our economy that provide the justification and supply the impetus for this essential organisational effort—with all its policy implications–that is needed to strengthen our national economy at its very foundations.

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Tour Of Community Pilot Project Areas

Shri R. Srinivasan, representative of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board, on the Action Committee of the Community Project Administration had a rapid tour of some of the Community Project Administration Pilot Project Areas in upper India. He was accompanied during the tour by Shri P. M. Mathai of the Community Project Administration, Development Commissioners, Project Officers and representatives of the Small-Scale Industries Board and the All India Handloom Board.

The brief report given below throws into broad relief the immense possibilities of developing rural industries in the country. These industries cover a variety of occupations which produce myriad articles of utility. From Tad Gur to precision surgical instruments, all things are prepared in the villages by the palm tapper to the village blacksmith. Given a co-ordinated policy of development as between the different Boards and the Community Projects Administration on the one hand, and appropriate policy aids and operative facilities to the artisans, on the other, village industries promise not only to give a good account of themselves in quantitative and qualitative production of varied articles for various purposes, but also can take over in several lines manufacture of articles from even large-scale establishments. During the tour there have been constant consultations between the representatives of the various Boards and the Community Projects Administration Officers, on the one hand and with appropriate administrative authorities of State Governments, on the other. Besides, meetings of village level workers of the Community Project areas and in some places Khadi workers of institutions recognised by the All India Khadi and Viliage Indusiries Board were also held at which problems of organization and co-ordination were discussed. It is reasonable to expect, as Shri Shrinivasan's report says, that as the integration of the activities in the different directions gathers memontum a new industrial effort will be brought about in the countryside. Below is given an area-wise report of the conditions of the different industries in the different areas :

Baripur Community Project Area (West Bengal)

February 20 and 21.

In the area, there are three training schools for carpentery and smithy. Training is being given to young men from these two artisan classes in these schools. There are also 8 or 10 small home units of small scale industries manufacturing surgical precision instruments with about 4 to 6 artisans in each. Most of these units do not use power, while a few have the facilities for it. These units are making stethoscopes, fine needles for stitching after operation, knives for deep operations etc. The Calcutta firms who are dealing in surgical instruments place orders with these units and give them the catalogues according to which these units manufacture the instruments. The electroplating and finishing of these instruments are made by the Calcutta firms themselves, for there is no finishing or electroplating equipment for these units in the area. Calcutta is only about 20 miles from the heart of this area and the Calcutta firms

advance money to these units and are found to make much profit after stamping the finished instruments with foreign trade marks. The units require electricity which, if supplied, will increase the efficiency of the artisans. The electroplating equipment also is necessary and the Assistant Director of the Small Scale Industries Board has promised to draw up programmes for setting up the electroplating plant in the area soon.

The whole area is full of flora and fauna and there is immense scope for developing and opening many sub-stations for the development of bee-keeping. But the apiarist working here says that beehives are not available and that the hives from Sodepur are are very costly, as much as Rs. 40 to Rs.45/- per hive. On my suggestion, the Small Scale Industries Representatives agreed to arrange for making the necessary hives with their funds. Commuity Project Officer (Industries) and the apiarist will be having contact with the reperesentative of the Small Scale Industries Board for this purpose.

Bamboos are found in plenty and Cottage Match Industry can be started and developed on a large scale. Before taking steps for starting the industry, it will be advisable to send a demonstration party for a few weeks to the area. The matter was taken up with Shri Satish Chandra Das Gupta at Sodepur. A demonstration party will be sent to the area soon.

The project area is a paddy growing tract and there is scope for starting handpounding industry with improved implements, even though there are rice mills 'round about. The Women's Clubs which have been started by the Community Project Administration will be helpful in organising handpounding and match manufacturing units.

Due to proximity of the area to Calcutta City, there is no appreciable unemployment in the area. But there is some under-employment. It is likely Ambar Charkha may have a good reception. The village level workers and the officers and the industrialists of the area who had assembled in a meeting assured us that the people of the area will certainly go in for Ambar Charkha when it is introduced. The number of hand-loom weavers is only 94 and if Ambar Charkhas are introduced on a large scale, the Ambar Charkha yarn will have to be exported to neighbouring areas where there are more handloom weavers for conversion of the yarn into cloth. Ambar Charkhas can be easily made in the Small Scale Industries Service Institute or through the Directorate of Industries Calcutta. I had contacted both of them and both of them are ready to take up the manufacture of Ambar Charkhas.

On the 21st February, there was a meeting at the Secretariat with Shri S. K. Bannerjee, Deputy Development Commissioner, Shri P. M. Mathai, Deputy Director of Industries and other officers at which the programmes of the several Boards were discussed. It was decided that schemes should be framed by the Community Project Officers for

the starting of the several village industries mentioned above and sent to the Board in due course. These schemes will be prepared in consultation with the Secretary of the State Board,

x x x

Bihar Shariff Area (Bihar)
February 22 and 23

Bihar Shariff is about 55 miles from Patna. On the way to the Project area, is the Ambar Charkha pilot centre run by the Bihar Khadi Samithi at Bakhtiarpur. At Palwapur a small institution is doing handpounding and ghani work under the auspices of the Bihar Khadi Samithi.

Barbhiga is a taluqa centre. Here lacquered bangles are made in the homes. Khandsari Sugar Industry units run by individuals (as many as 4 units) are conducted on traditional pattern. The units are using a variety of grass for crystallising the sugar on traditional lines. The premises of the factories are kept in insanitory conditions and the big pans, drums and other appliances used are not as clean as could be desirad. The workers of these units who are working under individual proprietors, complain of insufficient wages. Therefore, it will be necessary to form a cooperative society of these workers and cane growers of the area to impart the necessary knowledge in using improved implements, ovens, centrifugals, etc. Our Hony. Organiser, Shri L. C. Gupta, has promised to visit the village soon.

In the village there is a carpentry workshop run individually by a group of artisans. No electricity is used. The carpenters are skilled artisans and it is necessary to form a cooperative society for them and also to make electricity available to them. Though electricity is available in the village, within a few yards of the workshop, connection has not been given to them. The Community Project Officer (Industries) will soon arrange to form a cooperative society for the carpenters and also to supply electricity to their workshop. After these are done, a centre for manufacturing Ghani and Ambar Charkhas may be started here. At present the Ghanis are not manufactured in South Bihar which has to depend on Ghanis from Muzzaffarpur in North Bihar. Since the Ganges flows in between the transport from North Bihar to South Bihar is very difficult and costly. Shri Dhwaja Prasad Sahu has agreed to arrange for opening of a Ghani and Ambar Charkha manufacturing centre at this place. The society will send a carpenter to Muzzaffarpur Bihar Khadi Samithi for training in the manufacture of Ambar Charkhas.

At Bihar Shariff there are about 30 potters, of whom about 20 are well skilled in the art of making dolls; others are producing pottery articles such as pots, pans etc. There is a Potters' Cooperative Society at Bihar Shariff of which these potters are members. In order that they may be enabled to produce better and varied other articles, it will be necessary for the society to send one of their experienced artisans for

training in pottery to one of our training centres. The Community Project officers will soon arrange for this.

There are two multipurpose coperative societies, one in Dipnar and the other in Mahanadpur. The former society is situated in the paddy growing area and want to start handpounding of paddy activities. They will be sending their schemes soon. The latter society has alresdy sent one worker to Sodepur for being trained in Cottage match. After he returns, the society will be starting cottage match units.

There is a Silk Weavers' Cooperative Society at Alinagar consisting of about 20 members. Four of these weavers had been enlisted by the local Khadi Bhandar of the Bihar Khadi Samithi and their products are being taken over by it. Since there is scope for expanding and developing the work of this society, the society has been advised to apply for a certificate from our Certification Committee.

There are four Oil Men's Cooperative Societies in the Project area consisting of about 60 members. One such society is in Barbhiga. A model centre for Ghani oil may be given for this Barbhiga society so that the Inspector and Mistry at this model centre may teach the carpenters of the Carpentrs' Co-opertive Society in the manufacture of Ghanis.

There is a Charmakar Sahakari (Cooperative Society) for Village Leather artisans in the area. They had applied for some Flaying Centres which may be sanctioned when the applicatian reaches the Board. There is a Tanning Industrial Cooperative Society at Bihar Shariff which requires a marketing depot to market their products. They have already sent an application to the Board asking for Rs.22,000 by way of working capital. They would like to send one of their experienced reprerentatives to Bengal Leather Institute for training in making holdalls, purses etc. The Community Project Officer (Industries) will help the society in this regard.

On 23-2-56 the Village Level Workers of the area were addressed by Shri P. M. Mathai as well as the representatives of the different Boards. The schemes and programmes of the several Boards were explaind to them in detail.

Visited the Khadi-Gramodyog Bhavan newly started on 2nd February 1956 at Patna by the State Khadi and Village Industries Board. The Bhavan is situated in a prominent place and the show is very attractive. It is having a daily average sale of about Rs. 2,000/- of which Rs. 1000/- may be silk alone.

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(Bhopal Pilot Project area)
February 25, 26 and 27.

Visited Thuna training-cum-production centre for tailoring, carpentry, smithy and soap making, about 20 miles from Bhopal. We were told there was another similar training-cum-production centre for artisans at Sehoor which is 4 miles from Thuna. In Thuna, young men from the traditional village

artisans' families are taken and trained for a period of one year in batches in tailoring, carpentry, smithy and soap making.

On the 26th February, there was a meeting with Shri Venkoba Rao, Development Commissioner. The schemes and programmes of the several Boards were discussed in detail and the possibilities of starting village and other industries in the pilot project area were discussed in detail.

On the 27th February, visited Sehoor Block of the Community Project area, as also some villages in the project. In a village four miles from Bhopal we saw indigenous clay chakkis for dehusking paddy and stone atta chakkis for grinding flour. The Development Commissioner during the discussions the previous day had suggested that arrangements should be made by us for attaching ball bearings to the chakkis. He suggested that if the ball bearing attachments are made the handpounding industry can be revived easily in the area.

At Sehoor the party visited the women's tailoring class, carpentry workshops, handloom weaving training-cum-production centre, as also a Ghani manufacturing unit run by an individual carpenter. Tamarind timber is being used for the making of ghanis and tamarind is gradually becoming scarce. Investigations for getting alternative timber has become necessary. It is also necessary to arrange for manufacture of Wardha model ghanis at Bhopal itself. Bamboo which may be used for cottage match industry is also found in sufficient quantities at Sanchi and other places round about Bhopal.

On the 27th February, a meeting of the C. P. A. officers and the village level workers was addressed by Shri P. M. Mathai and myself on the programmes and schemes of the several Boards.

Palm Gur work is already done by the State Government for extension of the activities in the pilot project area. Date palms are in plenty and the Gur produced is of good quality. There is scope for producing more, but their problem is that they do not have a ready market in the State. The State Government expects help from the Board towards more working capital as wall as in the matter of marketing.

Speaking about, Village Oil Industry the Development Commissioner likes to replace all the 450 ghanis in the Pilot area in the course of three years with improved Wardha type ghanis. For the manufacture of 100 ghanis in the coming year, funds will have to be made available by the Board. Funds may have to be given by us for stocking oilseeds also. Since it was suggested that the oilmen in their houses do not have sufficient space or height in the roof to have a ghani with long pestle, Kallupatti model ghanis may be manufactured and supplied. Arrangements have to be made for sending them the Kallupatti model ghani so that they may begin arrangement for manufacturing the same.

Neem and Mahuva oilseeds being available in villages, the oil extraction from them and soap making can be started in the area. One soap unit has already been sanctioned for Bhopal Khadi Sangh and the progress of this unit may be watched.

One Bonemeal factory is already working in Bhopal and the possibilities of starting Flaying and Tanning centres on a large scale have to be investigated.

Regarding Cottage Match, one person may be sent for training to Sodepur from the Project area and, if possible, arrangements will have to be made for sending one demonstration party to Bhopal so that at least one production unit may be started at the outset in continuation of the demonstrations.

There is scope for pottery industry and two persons may be sent from the Project area to our training centre at Khanapur for taking training in the manufacture of utility articles and if possible, glazing.

A coperative Society for Hand Made Paper has already been formed with a share capital of Rs. 1,800. This society had been carrying on correspondence with our Oganiser for Paper for getting a grant of Rs. 6, 500 and a loan of Rs. 6, 500. Sanction for these proposals will have to be speeded up.

x x x

(Gwalior & Dabra Pilot Area)
February 28 and 29

Saw the training centre for Village Level Workers at Antri and visited the carpenters' workshop and potters' houses in that village. One of the carpenters has invented a handsaw and is working with it in his home workshop. The representative of the Small Scale Industries Board has promised to give the carpanter help necessary for developing his invention.

Visited Dabra, headquarters of the Pilot Project and saw the Ghani manufacturing centre and the Small Scale Industries centre. The Ghani production centre is having one mechanic and one manager only and is producing two ghanis per month. There are already 500 traditional ghanis in the project area and they are being replaced by Wardha model ghanis. There are orders for 18 already on hand and so, in order to cope up with the demand, Shri Ranade, Secretary of the State Board, agreed to give 18 ghanis produced by him in his other workshop in the State which are about 6 in number. The Secretary of the State Board will also give loans for stocking oil seeds to the four oil men's cooperatives already formed and working. He will also send one or two workers for starting handpounding of paddy in the area, even though there are as many as 25 rice mills. The people in the area are eager to take up handpounding activities.

Since there is a good scope for leather industry, the Secretary of the State Board will start 4 or 5 Flaying centres and a Tannery in the project area.

Out of the 3 units allotted to the

State Board by us, the State Board will be locating one pottery unit at Antri. There is no scope in the area for Bee-keepiug or Palm Gur. Though the area is irrigated and has sugar-cane cultivation, all the sugar-cane grown there is being commanded for the use of the sugar factory at Dabra. The Development Commissioner, the Chief Minister and other officers of the Government are anxious nevertheless to start Khandsari Industry activities in the area and have promised all help in the matter. The State Board will therefor, start a few Khandsari units in the area taking advantage of the extensive sugarcane cultivation already obtaining there.

There is no scope for cottage match, Handmade paper or soap-making. There are about 500 neem trees in one village in the area and Shri Ranade, Secretary of the State Board, will arrange to install one or two ghanis for extracting neem oil which he will use for making soap outside the project area.

Visited Pichore and saw the Wool Training-cum-Production centre which was started by the Industries Department one and half years back. It has taught about 600 spinners in wool spinning and 56 weavers in wool weaving. Nine weavers are under training and none of them belong to traditional weaving families. The blankets produced are of good pattern and design, even though the local wool is a little rough to touch. The party saw some spinners and weavers at work as well as the centre which is making blankets and darries. The need for a finishing plant is keenly felt by the centre in order to have a better finish for their blankets. Though this training centre is scheduled to close in October next, I have suggested to the authorities, the Development Commissioner, the Director of Industries and also the Chief Minister, that the training centre may be continued till the end of next financial year to which all of them have agreed. The State Government is financing the training centre and will continue to do so for another year. During this period, it is expected that the centre may train another 45 weavers, and 400 spinners so that the production may be done on an economical scale. The weavers are members of a cooperative society already formed and the trainees, after the training is over, are enlisted as members of the society from time to time. I have suggested that in order to stabilise the work of the society, the society may take out a certificate from our Certification Committee and take financial aid from the Board. The State Board will take over the goods after selling whatever will be possible locally, and the training centre will be a separate entity run by the State Industries Department as in the past.

The State Board will start one Ambar Charkha training centre with 20 sets in due course in some convenient village in the project area.

On the 29th February, the party visited Dabra again and addressed a meeting of the village level workers

and Community Project Officers. It was made known that some other village industries as lime kilns, stone carving, mat making, printing cloth etc. are also existing in the villages by the village leval workers. Community Project officers will further investigate the possibilities and send their proposals.

There were discussions by the party with Shri Bapna, the Development Commissioner and Shri Narayanaswamy, the Director of Industries and other officers on the schemes and programmes of the several Boards, which can be introduced in the area. During the discussions, it came to light that the Directorate of Industries has some balance amount to the tune of Rs. 40,000/-earmarked for small industries in the current year. The Development Commissioner and the Director of Industries agreed to allot this balance of Rs. 40,000/- for the finishing plant needed by the wool training-cum-production centre at Pichore and for starting an Ambar Charkha unit. The Secretary of the State Board has already sent the proposals in pursuance of these discussions to the State Government.

Visited the State Government's Research Institute at Gwalior City. The Institute is well equipped and the officers in charge of the institute were eager to have researches carried out in the matter of village industries also. The institute had already taken up research work in the matter of Rosin which is available in abundance in the Gwalior forests as well as in the manufacture of varnish from a prickly pear plant which grows in adundance in the area. The Director of the Institute has invented a small drum like box for polishing handpounded rice. During the discussions that I had with them, I felt that it is possible for the institute to undertake some research for inventing a small hand-machine for handpounding paddy. The officers are eager to take up that work, provided requisite funds are given by the Board. I had suggested to them that we would be sending Dr. Sadashiv Rao to the institute to investigate the possibilities and to dicuss the matter further,

x x x

(Jaipur Pilot Project Area)
March, 2 and 3.

On the 2nd March, visited the villages of Khora Bavri, Khora Basil and Sarna Dungar, about 16 miles north of Jaipur. These villages are situated among sandy tracts unconnected by any roads, except by foot tracks. At Khora Bavri, a Palm Gur (Date palm) centre is run wherein 8 Harijan boys are working. They live in a neighbouring village situated 2 miles away. The work is actually carried on in a palm grove and in the open. The ovens are lit in the open and pans exposed to wind, rain and sun. Water has to be carried from a few yards away, since the well is left half dug. The well is to be dug up fully for another 10 ft, to get enough water. Sheds also have to be put up for their

work shed since it is difficult for the boys to reach this workspot early in the morning from their village. They like to have houses for residence also near the workspot. This plot where they work has been given for this work by the local Panchayat and sheds and houses necessary will have to be constructed. A plan has been prepared by the Community Project Officer (Industries) and necessary funds are also in his hands. The Gur produced is being transported to Jaipur by the boys themselves and sold to Bengali families living in the city. The boys want to expend their work and increase their production. They are confident that their produce can be sold among the Bengali population of the city. In this connection, the C. P. Officer (Industries) told us that in some centres where marketing is difficcult due to the unwillingness of Rajasthanis to take to Palm Gur, it has become necessary that attempts should be made to create a taste for palm gur among the Rajasthanis by propaganda and personal example by the Community Project Officers and social workers. The Khadi Bhandars in Jaipur can stock palm gur and carry on propaganda for it. I later discussed this with the C. P. A. officers and staff and the Khadi workers whom I met at Jaipur.

At Khora Basil, the Harijans, as many as 70 families, are carrying on the tannery activities traditionally. They buy hides from Kanpur and tan them. The tannery is part of their houses and there is a cooperative society of tanners also in the centre of the village. The whole village atmosphere is polluted and made insanitary because of this. A plot given by the Panchayat has been selected for a common workshed which has to be built. Necessary finances are available from the State Board for having a model tannery. A plan also has been prepared by C. P. A. Officer (Industries) and sheds and pits have to be constructed. The well also has to be deepened. The foundation stone for the tannery was laid by me during the visit. The village is fortunate in having Shri Khoraji, an old worker.

At Sarna Dungar there are spinners and we visited a few houses. The yarn is bad since many do not know carding at all. Once a month, the workers from Govindgad Khadi Centre, 24 miles away in the sandy tracts, visit and purchase the yarn from these spinners. In order to improve the quality of the yarn, it has become necessary to teach these spinners carding.

Among the Harijans of Rajasthan, there is a feeling of inferiority complex and have left off their traditional occupation of Flaying due to the instigation of Harijan politicians. The feeling is so widespread that I was told they are afraid of ex-communication also. This feeling has to be removed by intense propaganda by social workers and others. Discussed this aspect of the problem also with the C. P. A.

officers and staff and the Khadi workers. Fortunately three boys from this village, due to the persuasion of Shri Khoraji, have gone to Kora Kendra for training in Carcass Recovery. This may be considered to be the first step in the cutting of the Gordian Knot.

In the afternoon the party visited Goner and Danthli villages as well as Sanganer, the headquarters of the Project Area. At Goner, there are tanners who are in need of common workshed and better housing as Khora Basil. Efforts are made to select a suitable plot away from the village. There are handloom weavers who are working in their own houses which have invariably only one room. This room which will be about 15x6 is serve as their Kitchen, bedroom, store and workspot. As such they are weaving only short widths out of mill yarn and sometimes with mill yarn for warp and handspun yarn got by them from Jaipur for weft. They are weaving only 22" and 24" cloth and find it difficult to market these goods. A plot in the village has been selected which has been donated by a villager for construction of a common workshed. They have a plan for constructing buildings also. At Danthli also, there are tanners and handloom weavers who are in the same plight as those of Goner.

At Sanganer, the party visited the houses of Calico printers and saw their work. The printers require more running water. They have immense orders from America and the various districts in India. They are unable to develop and improve that work for want of water and an expert to guide them.

Visited the Handloom Weavers Cooperative Society, Bhandar also.

Visited paper makers' houses and also their cooperative society. They complained that the Board has not paid subsidy to them this year , nor has recouped the losses in their accounts which had been audited already. They require also an expert in paper industry to assist in their work.

Addressed a meeting of the Village Level workers and C. P. A. Officers and discussed about the work in the area. Advised them to start a soap unit with neem oil, introduce Atta chakkis, form oilmen's coperatives and extend loans to the cooperatives for stocking oilseeds, to start training-cum-production centre for oil. If the number of ghani men is not sufficient consistent with the yield of oilseeds, to start propaganda for Palm Gur and to investigate the quality of clay available in potters' villages.

Shri Sharma, Secretary of the State Board, who was in the party throughout agreed to start a soap unit, and extend loans etc. to the oilmen's co-operatives from the funds available with the State Board.

On 3rd March, visited Shivdaspura and saw the working of our Regional

Khadi Vidyalaya and addressed the students and staff.

Visited the three Khadi Bhandars and Emporium of the State Khadi and Village Industries Board. I also addressed a meeting of Khadi and village Industries in the Community Project areas. Some 100 workers attended and Secretary of the Rajasthan Pradesh Congress was also present.

While in Bombay, Delhi
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Visit

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QUESTIONS IN LOK SABHA

The wide national interest that the Ambar Charkha Scheme of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board has evoked was reflected in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha during the Budget Session. Several questions were asked and answered on the floor of the two Houses. The nature and content of the questions are indicative of the anxiety of the members to have the fullest possible information about the Ambar Charkha, its potentialities and the attitude and policy of the Government of India in relation to the programme for its wide introduction in the country. We publish below some of the more important questions asked and the answers given on behalf of the Government:

In the Lok Sabha: 21-2-56.

Question: Shri G.L. Chaudhary: Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cloth woven out of yarn spun from Ambar Charkha would be considered Khadi cloth;* and

(b) if so, whether the commission of three annas per rupee will be admissible on that cloth also?

Answer: Parliamentary Secretary (Shri R. G. Dubey);

(a) & (b) : These points are under consideration.

x x x

* Since the answer was given, the position has been examined afresh by the Sarva Seva Sangh. Cloth spun out of Ambar Charkha yarn is accepted as Khadi and will be certified and sold as Khadi. Whether the rebate of 0-3-0 in the rupee which operates today on sales of all types of Khadi will apply to Khadi woven out of Ambar Charkha yarn is dependent on the acceptance of the Board's Ambar Charkha programme and the policy requirements of that programme.

Q; Shri Radha Raman:
Shri Krishnachary Joshi:
Shri Veeraswamy:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:

Will the Minister for Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sanctioned any pilot scheme for the manufacture of Ambar Charkhas and introducing them in villages for the production of Khadi:

(b) what are the special features of this scheme and how many Ambar Charkhas in the first instance will be manufactured and introduced in the next financial year: and

(c) when actually the scheme will be put into operation?

A: Parliamentary Secretary (Shri R. G. Dubey):

(a) With a view to ascertain the production capacity of Ambar Charkha and the suitability of its yarn for the Handloom Industry, a pilot

scheme was sanctioned for manufacturing 6,000 Ambar Charkhas to be operated in 100 Work Centres spread all over the country.

(b) Provision was made in the scheme for starting 15 Training and 100 Work Centres. The decision to introduce Ambar Charkha on a larger scale during the next financial year will be taken after the results of the tests now being carried out are available.

(c) The scheme has been in operation for a few months and a report on its working is expected by 30th April 1956.

(24-2-56)

x x x

Q: Shri B. K. Das: Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the proposal made by the Khadi and Village Industries Board in its resolution on the report of the Karve Committee for the appointment of a team to investigate the different aspects of the working of the Ambar Charkha has been accepted; and

(b) if so, the composition of the team and its terms of reference?

A: Parliamentary Secretary (Shri R. G. Dubey):

(a) Yes.

(b) A statement is laid on the table of the Sabha.

Statement referred to in the reply to part (b) of question is as under:

A Committee consisting of the following is being set up :-

1. Production Secretary -Chairman
2. Shri S. R. Vasavada, General Secretary, Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad, -Member
3. Shri P. H. Bhuta, General Secretary, Express Mills, Nagpur- *Member
4. Shri N. Majumdar, Industrial Adviser, (Textile Production) -Member
5. Shri A. S. E. Iyer, Secretary, All India Handloom Board. -Member
6 Shri C. J. Soneji, Textile Technologist and Industrial Chemist, Bombay - Member
7. Shri Krishnadas Gandhi, Sarva Seva Sangh, Wardha. - Member

The terms of reference are under consideration.*

x x x

In the Rajya Sabha: 7-3-56

Q.: Dr. Raghubir Singh: Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the pilot scheme for the manufacture of Ambar Charkha:

---

* Shri Bhuta has since expressed his inability to serve on the Committee. Shri Purshottam Kanji of Bombay has been nominated to serve on the Committee in his place.

**The terms of reference of the Committee have since, been announced. For details see 'Khadi-Gramodyog": Vol. II: No 6 (March, 1956, issue).

(b) the approximate cost of the scheme and the output of the same; and

(c) Whether there are possibilities of further expansion of the scheme in the near future ?

A. : Deputy Minister (Shri Satish Chandra) : (a) about 6000 Ambar Charkhas are to be manufactured and operated. The object of the scheme is to collect comprehensive data regarding the production capacity of Ambar Charkha and the suitability of its yarn for the handloom industry. A number of training centres and work centres have been opened for the purpose.

(b) A grant of Rs. 17,58,625 has been sanctioned for the implementation of the scheme. The loan of Rs. 12 lakhs will be recovered by the sale of Khadi which is likely to be produced.

(c) A decision will be taken when the results of the tests now being carried out, are available.

x x x

In the Lok Sabha : 5-3-56

Q : Shri S. C. Singhal : Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state :

(a) how much an average man will be able to spin on Ambar Charkha by working eight hours a day ;

(b) what will be the quality of the yarn in comparison with mill yarn ;

(c) how much daily a man can earn by working on Ambar Charkha in comparison with textile mill worker ;

(d) the proximate number of Ambar Charkhas working in the country; and

(e) the number of licences given last year for new spindleage ?

A : Deputy Minister (Shri Satish Chandra) : (a) About 16 hanks of yarn, if a person is engaged in spinning and not in other operations such as carding etc.

(b) & (c) Tests are being carried out and definite result will be available by the end of April.

(d) About 4,500.

(e) The number of new spindles licensed during 1955 is as under :—

New spinning mills	4,75,780
Substantial expansion of exitsing mills	4,30,960
Total	9,06,740*

Q : Shri S. V. Ramaswamy : Will the Minister of Production be pleased to refer to the reply given to a Question on the 21st February, 1956 and state :

(a) Whether any interim report has been received ;

(b) If not, whether it is proposed to be called ;

(c) The places where these 15 training and 100 work centers, are proposed to be located ;

(d) The nature of the tests being carried out ;

* According to latest reports the number of new spindles in respect of which licences have been issued is 21,00,000. -(Editor)

(e) The data obtained so far as to (i) productive capacity and (ii) wage earning capacity on the Ambar Charkha ; and

(f) Whether any technical tests are being carried out by the Ahmedabad Textile Industry's Research Association ?

A : Deputy Minister (Shri Satish Chandra : (a) and (b). The Board had been requested to give an interim report. It is likely to be available during this month.

(c) A statement is laid on the table of the Sabha.

(d) The tests cover various processes involved in carding, spinning etc., for assessing the production capacity of the Ambar Charkha and suitability of its yarn for Handloom Industry.

(e) The information may become available in the interim report.

(f) Yes.

Statement Referred To In The Reply Is Given Below :

14 Vidyalayas (Training Centres) have been set up by the Akhil Bharat Sarva Seva Sangh at the following places :-

Name of State	Name of Place
1. Andhra	1. Kakinada
2. Bengal	2. Arangatha
3. Bihar	3. Madhubani
4. Bombay	4. Sabarmati
	5. Hubli
5. Madhya Bharat	6. Ujjain
6. Madhya Pradesh	7. Wardha
7. Orissa	8. Kujendri
8. Punjab	9. Adampur
9. Rajasthan	10. Shivdaspura
10. Saurashtra	11. Rajkot
11. Madras	12. Veerapandi
12. Uttar Pradesh	13. Akbarpur
	14. Nagina.

110 Parishramalayas (Work Centres) have been opened at the following places. (The Sarva Seva Sangh, Bihar has split up its 10 centres into 20 units for its own convenience and hence the total has gone up to 110 as against the 100 Parishramalayas originally planned)

LIST OF PARIKSHANA PARISHRAMALAYAS

S.No.	State.	Name.	Address.
	West Bengal		
1.		Ambar Charkha Parishramalaya	Shri Nripendra Nath Bose, Bankura, Post Chhaterkanali, Bihar Juria.
2.		,, ,, ,,	Aranghata, Post and Dist. Nadia.

S.No.	State	Name	Address
3.	West Bengal	Ambar Charkha Parishramalaya	Shri Panchanan Basu Katranaka, Dist. Midnapur.
4.	Andhra	" " "	C/o The Handloom Weavers Co-op. Society Ellore, Dist. West Godaveri.
5.	"	" " "	C/o A.I.K.&.V.I. Board Patipadu Centre (Chebrolu Dist.E.Godaveri.
6.	"	" " "	C/o The Handloom Weavers Co-op. Society Ltd., Mangalgiri, Dt. Guntur.
7.	"	" " "	C/o A.I.K.&.V.I. Board, Khandukure, Dt.Nellore
8.	"	" " "	C/oHandloom Weavers Co-op. Society, Yadki, Dist. Anantpur.
9.	"	" " "	C/o A.I.K.&.V.I. Board Kota Urutla, Narsipattanam, Vizag.
10.	"	" " "	C/o Krishna Zilla Sarvodaya Sahakari Samiti, Ghantashala,Dt.Krishna
11.	"	" " "	C/o The Perula Handloom Co-op. Society, Chirala, Dist. Guntur.
12.	"	" " "	C/o Handloom Weavers Co-op.Society, Yemiganur, Dist. Kurnool.
13.	"	" " "	C/o Handloom Weavers Co-op.Society Ltd. Via:Puttur Naryanavanam, Dist. Chittor.

S.No.	State	Name	Address
14.	Andhra	Ambar Charkha Parishramalaya	C/o A.I.K.&.V.I. Board, Bontala Koduru, Dt. Srikakulam.
15.	"	" " "	C/o A. I. K. &. V. I. Board, Sri Kakulam Nurapaka.
16.	Bombay	" " "	Manager C/o Bombay A. I. K. &. V. I. Board, N. Karnatak Region, Hubli.
17.	"	" " "	Manager, C/o Khadi Gramodyog Sangh, Gurlhosur, Dist. Belgaum.
18.	"	" " "	Mandergi, Dt. Sholapur
19.	"	" " "	Patnaker, Sarvodaya Sanchalak, Rajur.
20.	"	" " "	Parola, Dist. East Khandesh.
21.	"	" " "	Jalgaon, Dist. Nasik
22.	"	" " "	Mahipat Ashram, Raipur, Ahmedabad.
23.		" " "	Anath Ashram, Raipur, Ahmedabad.
24.	"	" " "	Gunja, District Mehsana
25.	"	" " "	Karadi, Via Navsari, Dt. Surat.
26.	"	" " "	Bhimpor Gramodyog Khadi Sahakari Sangh, Bhimpor, Dt. Surat.
27.	Mysore	" " "	Manager, Anekal, Dist. Banagalore.
28.	Orissa	" " "	Post Kushiapal, Dist. Cuttack.
29.	"	" " "	Digheri, Post Manikghoda, Dist. Puri.

S.No.	State	Name	Address
30.	Orissa	Ambar Charkha Parishramalaya	Balasore, Buhari.
31.	,,	,, ,, ,,	Begunia Pada, Dist. Ganjam.
32.	Travancore-Cohin	,, ,,	Sarva Seva Ashram, Post. Adimali.
33.	,,	,, ,, ,,	Vinoba Niketan, Malayadi, Post Vithura.
34.	,,	,, ,, ,,	A. B. S. S. S. Nagarcoil Vibhag, Thenganputhur (South Travancore).
35.	Madras	,, ,, ,,	A. B. S. S. S. Kozhikode Vibhag, Meenchenta, Kozhikode.
36.	,,	,, ,, ,,	A. B. S. S. S. Palghat Vibhag, Ellapalley, South Malabar.
37.	,,	,, ,, ,,	A. B. S. S. S. Palghat Vibhag, Post Mudaploor, Via Palghat.
38.	,,	,, ,, ,,	Velampalayam (Uttukuli)
39.	,,	,, ,, ,,	Nainagoundanvalasu (Mulanur).
40.	,,	,, ,, ,,	Veerapandi, Branch.
41.	,,	,, ,, ,,	Sedapalayam (Kundalam) Branch.
42.	,,	,, ,, ,,	Pudupalayam (T. S. Paramasivam) Branch.
43.	,,	,, ,, ,,	Sankarapandiapuram (Kovilpatti) Branch
44.	,,	,, ,, ,,	Karivalamvandanallur (Kovilpatti) Branch.
45.	,,	,, ,, ,,	Kunnur(Srivilliputtur) Branch.

S. No.	State	Name			Address
46.	Madras	Ambar Charkha	Parishramalaya		Kullampalaym
		,,	,,	,,	(Kangayam) Branch.
47.	,,	,,	,,	,,	Nattanvalasu (Koduval) Branch.
48.	,,	,,	,,	,,	Athipakkam (Tindivanam)
49.	Punjab	,,	,,	,,	Khadi Gramodyog Samiti, Adampur-Doaba.
50.	,,	,,	,,	,,	,, Bilga, Noor Mahal.
51.	,,	,,	,,	,,	C/o Central Relief Committee, Ambala City.
52.	,,	,,	,,	,,	C/o Central Relief Committee, Karnal.
53.	Pepsu	,,	,,	,,	Kasturba Sabha Mandir, Rajpura.
54.	Bihar	,,	,,	,,	Simari, Darbhanga, Madhubani, N. E. R.
65.	,,	,,	,,	,,	Hazipur, (Shankerpur) Samaila - Lalganj, Darbhanga, Madhubani. N. E. R.
56.	,,				Hensa, Sari, Darbhanga, Samastipur, N. E. R.
57.	,,	,,	,,	,,	Pusa Road, Baini, Darbhanga, Pusa Road.
58.	,,	,,	,,	,,	Madhubani (Shahpur) Madhubani, Darbhanga, Madhubani, N.E.R.
59.	,,	,,	,,	,,	Koilakh, Darbhanga, Madhubani, N.E.R.
60.	,,	,,	,,	,,	Kapasia, Loha, Darbhanga,Madhubani, N.E.R,

S. No.	State	Name	Address
61.	Bihar	Ambar Charkha Parishramalaya ,, ,, ,,	Behata, Benipatti, Darbhanga, Kamtol, N. E. R.
62.	,,	,, ,, ,,	Mahammadpur, Pindakh, Darbhanga, Mahammadpur, N.E.R.
63.	,,	,, ,, ,,	Madhepur, Darbhanga, Tamoria, N.E.R.
64.	,,	,, ,, ,,	Majholia, Darbhanga, Laheria-Sarai, N.E.R.
65.	,,	,, ,, ,,	Narsinghpur, Dholi, Muzaffarpur. N.E.R.
66.	,,	,, ,, ,,	Sitamarhi (Bazpatti) ,,
67.	,,	,, ,, ,,	Tiril, Jagannathpur, Ranchi, ,,
68.	,,	,, ,, ,,	Bakhatiyarpur, Patna, Pasraha, E. R.
69.	,,	,, ,, ,,	Kanhyachak, Mungyre, Pasraha, N.E.R.
70.	,,	,, ,, ,,	Assarganj, Sultanganj, E.R.
71.	,,	,, ,, ,,	Kalashala, Dhaka, Champaran, Motihari.
72.	,,	,, ,, ,,	Kailgarh, Saran, Hathuwa N.E.R.
73.	,,	,, ,, ,,	Ranipatra, Purnia, Ranipatra, N.E.R.
74.	Uttar Pradesh	,, ,, ,,	C/o Rajarambhai, Gandhi Ashram, Meerut.
75.	,,	,, ,, ,,	C/oRamnarayan Chowbey Gandhi Ashram, Raghubir Ganj, Hapur.
76.	,,	,, ,, ,,	C/o Shri Sukhdeo Sahay, Bulandshahar.
77.	,,	,, ,, ,,	C/o Shri Virendrasingh, Gandhi Ashram, Aligarh,

S. No.	State	Name	Address.
78.	Uttar Pradesh	Ambar Charkha Parishramalaya	C/o Shri Chandrashekhar, Raipur, Maniharen (Dist. Saharanpur).
79.	"	" " "	C/o Shri Pujari Rai, Gandhi Ashram, Muradabad.
80.	"	" " "	C/o Vyavasthapak, Gandhi Ashram, Nagina (Dist. Bijnore).
81.	"	" " "	C/o Deokaran Singh, Gandhi Ashram, Akbarpur, (Dist. Fyzabad).
82.	"	" " "	Kanpur.
83.	"	" " "	Doharighat, (Azamgarh)
84.	"	" " "	Gorakhpur.
85.	"	" " "	Deoria.
86.	"	" " "	Ballia.
87.	"	" " "	Saidat (Ghazipur)
88.	"	" " "	Banaras Cantt.
89.	Madhya Pradesh	" " "	Khadi Karyalaya, Sawali, Dt. Chanda.
90.	"	" " "	A. Bharat Sarva Seva Sangh, Maganwadi, Wardha.
91.	"	" " "	A. Bharat Sarva Seva Sangh, Mool, Dist. Chanda.
92.	Madhya Bharat	" " "	Sabalgarh, Dt. Murena, M. B,
93.	"	" " "	Shivpuri, Dt. Shivpuri, M. B.
94.	"	" " "	Shajapur, Dt. Shajapur, M. B.
95.	"	" " "	Neemach Cantonment, Dt. Mandsore, M. B., Via Ratlam.
96,	"	" " "	Khargone, Via Khandwa, Dt. Neemad, M. B.

S.No.	State	Name	Address
97.	Rajasthan	Ambar Charkha Parishramalaya ,, ,, ,,	Rajasthan Khadi Sangh, Post Khadibaugh; Dist. Jaipur.
98.	,,	,, ,, ,,	Rajasthan Khadi Vikas Mandal, Khadi Ashram, Post Samod, Wansa, Dist. Jaipur.
99.	,,	,, ,, ,,	Kendriya Sarvodaya Sahakari Sangh, Sahapura, Dist. Jaipur.
100.	,,	,, ,, ,,	Gram Sevak Mandal, Karoli, Dist. Savai-Madhopur, Rajasthan.
101.	,,	,, ,, ,,	Nav-Nirman Sangh, Udaipur.
102	Hyderabad	,, ,, ,,	Hyderabad Khadi Samiti, Gandhi Bhavan, Mukharamshahi Road, Hyderabad.
103.	,,	,, ,, ,,	Khadi Karkhana, Dist. Karim Nag, Metpalli.
104.	,,	,, ,, ,,	Khadi Karkhana, Dist. Karim Nag, Vailel.
105.	,,	,, ,, ,,	Pochampalli, Dist. Telangana, Hyderabad State.
106.	Saurashtra	,, ,, ,,	Rachanatmak Samiti, Rashtriya Shala, Rajkot, Saurashtra.
107.	,,	,, ,, ,,	Sarvodaya Ashram, Sorath (Dt.) Shahapur.
108.	,,	,, ,, ,,	Pandya Khadi Karyalaya, Dt. Amreli, Chalala
109.	,,	,, ,, ,,	Khadi Karyalaya, Saverkundla, Dt. Gohilwad
110.	,,	,, ,, ,,	Khadi Karyalaya, Garhshisha (Kutch).

(Cottage Industries)

Q: Thakur Jugal Kishore Sinha : Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state the steps that have been taken to guarantee the exclusive area of operation or exclusive production of selected items of cottage industries to ensure the development of cottage industries on a sound footing?

A: Deputy Minister (Shri Satish Chandra):—

A statement is laid on the table of the House.

The various steps, taken so far, to guarantee the exclusive area of operation or exclusive production of cottage industries, to ensure their development on a sound footing are described below:—

(1) Textiles:

In April, 1950, the Government of India issued a notification prohibiting the Cotton Mill Industry from producing certain varieties of cloth, like Dhoties of a certain width and borders, sarees, lungies etc., and reserving their production for the handloom industry. Later, the Government also restricted production of all dhoties by mills to 60 per cent of their production from April 1951 to March, 1952, and enforced this by a penal excise duty on mill production over this limit. Installation of new loomage in the mill industry was also recommended in 1953-54 that the existing reservations may continue, but need not be widened. The Karve Committee on Village and Small-Scale Industries, have recommended the reservation of further expansion of cloth production to the decentralised sector. These recommendations are now under consideration.

(2) Printing of Cloth and Garment-making:

No permission is being given for expansion of these activities to the mill industry.

(3) Leather Industry:

Every request for opening of a new factory or for expansion of an existing unit by large-scale sector is being considered after assessing its effect on the cottage sector. Since the beginning of the First Five Year Plan, no application for expansion or establishment of a large-scale unit has been approved.

(4) Besides Furniture-making, Slates and Pencils, Writing Inks, Chalks and Crayons, Candle-making and Sports goods:

No expansion on establishment of large-scale undertakings is being allowed in these industries.

(5) Agricultural implements :

Licences are granted for the establishment of large-scale units or for expansion of the existing certain agricultural implements (List below).

(6) Two committees were set up by Government to examine the rice-processing and oil-seeds crushing industries. The Rice-Milling Committee has submitted its report which is under consideration. The Committee on the Oil

crushing industry has not yet finished its work.

LIST II

(A) Agricultural hand tools with cutting edge:

1. Axes, feeling; (2) Axes, pick; (3) Hoes; (4) Garden shears; (5) Pruning Knives; (6) Kodalis; (7) Spades or Powrahs or Mammooties; (8) Shovels; (9) Scythes and Sickles; (10) Hatchet or Daw: (11) Bill Hocks; and (12) Other edged hand tools used in agriculture.

(B) Agricultural Field Impleme-nts:

(1) Grain riddles; (2) Harrows and parts thereof; (3) Ploughs complete; (4) Rakes; (5) Ridger or hiller (hand, or cattle driven); (6) Seeders: (7) Seed drills (Manually operated type); (8) Seed dressers; (9) Thrashers (hand, paddle or animal driven) (10) Weeders; and (11) Cultivators.

(C) Agricultural Produce Processing Implements:

(1) Cane crushers (Animal or manual operated); (2) Juice boiling pans, (3) Gur Percolators; (4) Pedal threshers; (5) Rice Hullers: (6) Corn shellors (hand operated) and (7) Winnowers.

(D) Irrigation and Water Supply Equipment:

(1) Hand operated pumps for domestic water supply: (2) Persian wheels gear well type; (3) Channels water, sheet metal; (4) Cans ordinary and watering; (5) Water buckets for irrigation purposes; and (6) Water lifting equipment other than Persian wheels hand or cattle driven.

(E) Miscellaneous Agricultural Implements :

(1) Chaff cutters; (2) Blades, chaff cutters; (3) Chains for cattles; (4) Dusting machines (hand driven): (5) Rat traps; (6) Wheel barrows; (7) Carts and their wheels (M. S.); (8) Manure Tramplers (manual or animal operated); (9) Land Puddlers; (10) Bund formers; and (11) Earth scrapers.

In the Rajya Sabha : 27-2-56

Handpounding of Rice

Q : Shri M, Valiulla **:** Will the Mintster for Production be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the production of paddy processed by handpounding method is increasing from year to year; and

(b) If so, what is the increase in each of the years from 1953-54 onwards.

Q : Minister (Shri K- C, Reddy) **:** (a) & (b) Figures regarding rice produced by hand-pounding method for the five years ending 1954-55 are the following :

Year	Production (In million tons)
1950-51	15.26
1951-52	15.79
1952-53	16.98
1953-54	20.76
1954-55	18.24

In the Lok Sabha: 13-3-56.

Q: Thakur Jugal Kishore Sinha: Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) the specific steps taken in Bihar State for the development of the manufacture of ghani oil;

(b) the number of oilmen's cooperative societies engaged in the manufacture of such oil;

(c) the number of societies which have not been given any assistance technical or otherwise, with the result that they are not functioning

(d) the proposal if any, for running the defunct oilmen's co-operative societies and

(e) how does the rate of such oil compare with mill oil?

A: Minister (Shri K. C. Reddy):

(a) Financial assistance has been given to the State Government for the establishment of a model Demonstration Centre and for subsidising the introduction of improved ghanis.

(b) 119

(c) 21

(d) No such proposal has been received.

(e) The rate of Ghani Oil is generally higher by about four to six annas per seer.

Beware of

The Rice You Eat !

Ask for

Handpounded Rice

which

Builds Your Body

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The Second Five-Year Plan And Sarvodaya

[P. SRINIVASACHARI]

Our country is now on the threshold of a new era. A great change has taken place in the way of thinking of our people in recent years. For the first time in the history of our nation, we are earnestly and systematically planning to use our resources for the development of our economy. Our First Five-Year Plan is coming to an end and the Draft Outline of the Second Plan is now placed before the public for consideration. It is claimed that the second plan will secure a more rapid growth of the national economy and in the process bring in necessary institutional changes keeping our aims and aspirations in view. The approach of this plan is fundamentally different from the previous plan. The Second Plan thinks more in terms of long range dividends and not in immediate gains to the society.

The Plan has been formulated to achieve the following principal objectives:

(a) a sizeable increase in national income so as to raise the level of living in the country;

(b) rapid industrialization with particular emphasis on the development of basic and heavy industries;

(c) a large expansion of employment opportunities; and

(d) reduction of inequalities in income and wealth and a more even distribution of economic power.

These objectives are very commendable as far as they can be achieved. They are also inter-related. The point however, is whether the achievement of these objectives will open a new chapter in the progress of our country and create conditions favourable for establishing the Sarvodaya Order.

The Second Plan

The Plan aims to bring an appreciable increase in the national income (by about 25 per cent) through a development programme of 7,100 crores both in the public and private sectors. Increase in the country's wealth has been visualized on the belief that rapid industrialization is the core of development.

It may be possible to raise the national income to a sizeable degree by the end of the plan period. But increase in national income need not necessarily reflect a corresponding rise in the standard of living of the people. The index of the national income

is not a true guide to evaluate the increase in the welfare of the people. Unless deliberate steps are taken to incur the expenditure under the various items of development in such a way as to bring utmost benefits to less priviledged classes of society, the increase in national income will be usurped by the section of the people who control the means of production. We will be deceiving ourselves if we think that the rise in national income has benefitted the people at large.

The per capita income in India today is very low. (Rs. 280-A large section of the people receive much less as the figure gives only the average per capita income.) In order to raise the level of living in the country we should apportion our meagre resources in such a way that a large part of our outlay is spent for improving the conditions of the people in the lower income groups. This will be the approach of the Sarvodaya Plan.

Priorities and Policies.

The Second Plan expresses concern about the urgent need to bring relief to those who need it most, but the priorities adopted are not in accordance with the expressed professions. A large part of the investment under the plan, (as much as 57 per cent) has been allotted for industrial development. A high precedence has been given to the capital goods and heavy industries. Except for some measures like bringing the sector of heavy industries under state management and adopting suitable fiscal policy, the Plan does not contemplate any radical change in the private ownership of the means of production which accounts, to a large extent, for the creation of wealth. In the absence of such a Policy it is doubtful whether the increase in national income will be widely distributed among the economically backward sections of the people.

The responsibility of the State for the future development of heavy industries and the importance given to the cottage and small industries may give the impression that the Second Plan does not essentially differ from the Sarvodaya Plan. In fact, the concern shown for decentralizing production and insistence made on building up of a co-operative sector, may lead some to think that the Plan prepares the ground for a Sarvodaya social order. But there is no clear-cut policy as regards the future role of the decentralized units. We do not know what will happen to them once the country has been made self-sufficient in capital goods. The plan does not indicate the part that will be played in future by the big industries which are now producing consumers' goods. It does not give any programme for the gradual decentralization of such big industries. In the absence of a definite settled policy, there is every possibility that the centralized method of production will get a fresh impetus at the cost of the decentralized units after the country has made some advance in developing heavy industries.

The Pattern

This will be quite evident when we note that, as against the provision of Rs. 891 crores for industrial development in the public sector, a sum as much as Rs. 620 crores has been allotted to the private sector under this head. The Plan is silent about taking some positive steps gradually to do away with large scale production in consumers' goods for the development of the decentralized units in order to give them a permanent place in our economy. The conception of decentralization as visualized by our planners is not clear. The plan does not categorically state that self employment organised on a decentralised basis will be the pattern of our mode of production in future. The term decentralization has been used to connote diffusion of industries. Decentralization is considered desirable as it provides certain economics and minimises certain social evils like emergence of slums, overcrowding in cities etc. The programmes laid out in the Plan will not lead to the elimination of the capital-labour relationships. There will be no change in the position of the labourers as wage earners. The outcome of the plan will result in the coming in of a powerful public sector and a comparatively less powerful private sector, in the industrial structure. In between the two, the decentralised units will in all probability, be sand-witched without a proper policy and sufficient encouragement. The difficulties experienced by the Khadi Board and many other Boards recently established by the Government for the development of small scale industries should be an eye-opener to us. It is not finance or lack of any other kind of resources that stand in the way of their progress. The absence of a definite policy on the part of the Government to change the present pattern of centralised production the decentralised method of production is mainly responsible for the slow progress made by these Boards. There is nothing in the plan to indicate that the Government has accepted decentralisation whole-heartedly. Vacillating policies and half-hearted actions will not set the cottage industries on a firm footing even though they may give temporary relief to these industries.

The undue emphasis on heavy industries is bound to create new problems. The investment programme for industrial development will drain our resources to a great extent, in as much as Rs. 1,350 crores have to be spent in importing machinery and equipment. This huge drain, *ipso facto* necessitates development to a high order of our centralised industries producing consumers' goods in order to increase our exports and enlarge our foreign exchange resources. In a Sarvodaya Plan dependence on foreign resources will not be so much, as the pattern of industrialization will altogether be different. The plan envisages private foreign investment to the extent of Rs. 100 crores. While we can have no objection to foreign help, it will be

dangerous to encourage indiscriminately private foreign investment. It is not a matter of pride to note that the net foreign investment in our country has increased to Rs. 130 crores after independence and the total foreign investment is more than one-third of the total fixed capital investment in the country. If we plan for a Sarvodaya order, foreign capital has its place only on government to government level.

The Employment Factor

Even though the plan gives ambitious programmes of development, the planners admit that the impact of the plan on the two-fold problems of unemployment and under-employment will not be as large as the situation demands. According to their optimistic calculations, the plan at best, will provide employment opportunities for the new entrants to the labour force and relieve underemployment in agriculture and in village and small industries. It will have no effect at all on the carry-over of unemployment of the earlier period. Thus, the position of unemployment at the end of the Second Plan period will be of about the same order as at present. Indeed employment has been given secondary importance, as the main emphasis is on rapid industrialisation. The human aspect of the problem has been ignored while planning for plenty. The Sarvodaya plan will be chiefly 'employment oriented', as the fundamental task is to provide immediate relief to those who are in the lower rung of the ladder. Full employment on the foundation of a predominently self-employed sector will be the primary aim of the Sarvodaya plan. This brings out the fundamental difference in approach between the two plans.

The success of any plan will be judged by its contribution towards reducing the existing inequalities. In India, there is a very wide gap between the rich and the poor. Unless the present economic system which breeds inequality and concentrates wealth and power in the hands of a few, is thoroughly refashioned to promote the collective welfare of the people as a whole. This objective cannot be attained. This requires vast institutional and organisational changes touching our life in all its aspects. The measures contemplated in the plan will not completely eradicate the main causes of our economic ills. The increasing role of the public sector, the encouragement of village and cottage industries, the reform of land tenures and recourse to fiscal measures are not enough to bring out a fundamental change in the economic organisation of our society. At best, they can control to some extent the disparity in income among the various groups. The increasing role of the State in the public sector may, if wise policies are followed, prevent the inequality rising further. But then it will increase the concentration of economic power in the hands of the State. The importance and scope given to the private sector will only add to its

strength. It will be sheer folly to expect that when there is concentration of productive power, the economic power will of its own accord be evenly distributed.

Land Reforms

In the agricultural sector, the land reforms envisaged in the plan will not lead to co-operative village management even though the plan considers this ideal as the goal of reorganisation of the village economy. The reform will not vest the ownership of the land in the village community which is the *sine qua non* for establishing a Sarvodaya society. Abolition of private ownership in land has not been considered as the essential prerequisite for wiping out inequality and for distributing the economic power among the masses. The clauses dealing with the fixation of ceilings have many loopholes. The lot of landless agricultural workers has not received the attention which it deserves at the hands of the planners, even though they agree that little has been done so far for the direct benefit of landless workers. The reforms contemplated do give some protection to the tenants, but do not go so far as to afford sufficient relief to the much neglected classes in the countryside by giving them lands to work upon.

The working of the Community Projects and the National Extension Services will not give any succour to this section of the population. The Community Projects have to function under the limitations of the land policy and hence cannot fill up the gap left in the land reforms. There is no doubt that they are doing very valuable work, but experience has shown that the benefits of these projects, do not reach the peasants with meagre resources. The Community Projects, if they are intended to prepare the ground for transforming the present society into a Sarvodaya Order, should not confine their activities to few items of work concerning agriculture, but should touch every aspect of the life of the villagers. They should function as the primary organization to bring about a complete revolution in our village economy.

Inequalities

Apart from the unequal distribution of wealth and concentration of economic power in industrial and agricultural sectors, there is also another kind of inequality prevailing in the country at present. All the regions in our country are not equally well developed. Due to various reasons the utilization of the resources of our country has taken place in a haphazard manner. Our industries are concentrated in a few areas while many regions remain very backward. The approach of the plan should have been to make regional units self-sufficient, as far as possible, at least in the primary necessaries of life. This emphasis on regional self-sufficiency and decentralized method of production are the only ways to minimise the difference in the level of prosperity of the different regions. This should be the goal of any

plan which accepts the ideal of Sarvodaya as its aim. No doubt the second five year plan has given thought to the question of disparities in levels of development as between different regions. But there is nothing in the plan to suggest that regional self-sufficiency has been accepted as worthy ideal to be pursued. Nor has decentralisation been accepted as the goal of our economic policy. Other methods suggested in the plan, however helpful they may prove to be, will not totally eliminate the root of the unbalanced growth of different regions, and consequent inequality between them.

Thus, considering the Outline of the Second Five Year plan as a whole, it is doubtful that the programmes indicated will be potent enough to reduce inequality and promote even distribution of economic of power. Inequality and concentration of power are the concomitant results of centralization. They are inherent in an economic system based on centralized methods of production. Bringing the basic industries under state management will not solve the problem, as the functional operation of the economic system will not have undergone any radical change. The problem requires to be tackled on a more fundamental plane. Unless decentralization has been accepted as an article of faith, the ideal of a society based on equality and freedom will remain for ever a distant dream.

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POINT COUNTER POINT

"I wish to emphasise that higher employment, though a very desirable objective, cannot be as important as creation of greater wealth. Only such employment as is highly productive can create prosperity"

—G. D. Birla.

This perhaps explains the extremes of poverty and wealth in this country. To Shri Birla, perhaps, prosperity is for the prosperous.

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"With wealth a large number of tertiary employment would grow automatically. Higher production is the objective which really matters.",

—G. D. Birla.

"Produce and perish" seems to be Shri Birla's prescription for prosperity. In India we have a strange spectacle of increasing production and decreasing employment and increasing poverty for an increasing number.

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"Although the Ambar Charkha might have a place in the economy of the country, it can only function in a supplementary capacity. Unless it is proved that most efficient methods of production within the country's resources are already fully utilized, Ambar Charkha is likely to obstruct rather than pave the path to progress"—

—G. D. Birla.

The clamour for additional mill spindleage and for increasing the number of looms in the mills does, perhaps, explain that "most efficient methods of production within the country's resources" are not fully utilized !

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"There will be no conflict between large-scale industries and cottage industries if they can be supplementary to each other."

—G. D. Birla.

The supplementary role of large-scale industries and cottage industries is writ large across the social and economic map of India. To wit, the millions who used to spin and weave have been thrown on the scrap heap. Oil mills have been thrown out of use lakhs of oil ghanis. The supplementary role of large-scale industry vis-a-vis the village industries is thus the more powerful swallowing up the less powerful and the disadvantaged. Supplant the "supplementary", is the new slogan in "co-existence" in economics.

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"If one plans that the large-scale industry shall follow the cottage industry, then one might as well plan that railways shall progress only through the bullock cart".

—G. D. Birla.

Does not Shri Birla know that the railways actually progress through the bullock cart? The bullock cart carries the primary and other produce to the rail heads. Without them the railways will have to go empty.

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"In more economically advanced countries cottage industries play a much bigger role than in India because there is such a great bigger field for feeding the large-scale units".

—G. D. Birla.

Shri Birla may be asked to revisit Detroit. The way the American automobile industry and the Hindustan Motors work will be revealing.

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"Seth Vadilal Lallubhai is very sympathetic. He says: "It is true that the possibilities of the Ambar Charkha are great indeed, that the experiments which are being made are in the right direction and that they should certainly succeed in augmenting the yarn production considerably. They would be a great village home industry and can be scattered all over the country—in the villages as well as towns—and would considerably reduce under-employment and unemployment. It is known that certain improvements are being rapidly made and are deriving successful results."

But he would not have the country "pin its hopes on the Ambar Charkha" ! You accept the efficiency of a tool; when it comes to its use,...Well...Let it wait till the third plan comes. Strange, indeed, is the logic of plutocracy !

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"The Second Five Year Plan has been envisaged in such a big way that it is expected to increase our national income by 25 per cent. The actual increase may prove to be even more as it happened in the First Five Year Plan. This rise in income presupposes greater consumption and if there is going to be more consumption it is likely that the per capita consumption of all consumer goods may be more than what is envisaged in the Plan and if the consumption increases and if we are not able to fulfill the requirements, there will be severe price increase and inflation."

—Seth Vadilal Lallubhai.

Sethji cannot be unaware of the fallacy of per capita incomes and consumption levels. The per capita income today is over Rs. 280. Does he know that the average for rural areas does not exceed Rs. 104 ? Actually, in the Sultanpur village, by no means a back-ward village, it is only Rs. 75. What increase in consumption of articles other than food

articles can one expect with generation of more incomes as a result of the successful working of the plan among such people ? Sethji may be provided with some very revealing facts :

1. Today 142.26 lakhs of people live on less than 3 annas a day.
2. 475.11 lakhs of people live on less than 6 annas a day.
3. 1091.98 lakhs live on less than 10 annas a day and
4. 712.01 lakhs live on less than Re. 1 a day.

In other words 50 per cent of the population of the country lives on an income which is less than ten annas a day and 20 per cent on less than Rs. 1 a day. That is, 70 per cent of our total population lives on sub-marginal levels. The rise in per capita (national average) income during recent years has had little impact on them. Rise in per capita incomes will be confined mainly to the narrow group of 30 per cent of the population and within it to a still smaller percentage of people. Consumption would certainly increase. But consumption of what goods ? Mere rise in the national averages of per capita incomes and consumption means next to nothing. The poor remain poor, any way.

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Shri Vadilalbhai avers that the Second Five Year Plan should be a "produce more" plan and organised consumer goods industries should be permitted to expand and produce consumer goods in plenty so that inflationary tendencies may not rise. From the Third Five Year Plan onwards, he says, village and cottage industries can have a greater role. "Even if the production in the Second Five Year Plan is a little higher than what is required, it will all be for the good; because they will stop insipient and inflationary tendencies from emerging. It seems to me that as the Second Five Year Plan comes to an end and the Third Plan starts there will be scope in the future for all small-scale and village industries to grow much faster than in the Second Plan. The period of the Third Five Year Plan will be the right time to restrict production of any large organized industry, but not till then."

The sting is in the tail. What Sethji wants is: "Let me take over what is still left outside my fold". We can then talk, for then there will be nothing to talk about.

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Referring to the cost of the Ambar Charkha programme Shri G. D. Somani pontifically asks: "It is pertinent to ask whether such an enormous expenditure of the national resources would be justified in order to perpetuate a manifestly uneconomic means of production."

One might humbly enquire whether it is at all economic for the common people to perpetuate all the import duties on cloth which

after all is what makes his "economic means of production" economic. Shall we throw open the flood gates, Somaniji ?

x x x

"The Khadi Board hopes that the introduction of 25 lakhs of Ambar Charkhas will provide part and full-time employment to 50 lakhs persons in the country in the spinning of yarn, 8.46 lakhs weavers and 4.24 lakhs assistants in weaving, besides full time employment for 72,000 carpenters and their assistants and about 20,000 persons in administration and organizational jobs. This is a breath-taking recital of the capacities of the Ambar Charkha. But from the practical point of view it is rather incredible."

—G. D. Somani

What is incredible, however, is the tall claim he makes about " the snow-ball effect on employment in enterprises directly and indirectly connected with the cotton textile mill industry consequent upon the expansion of the industry on such a scale. Cotton growers, machinery manufacturers, producers and suppliers of mill stores and a host of others who contribute goods and services to meet the manifold requirements of the mills, derive their livelihood and prosperity from this, the nation's premier organized industry. In short, the industry touches the economic life of the country at so many points enriching and diversifying it that it is almost impossible to assess its importance in precise terms."

What, however, are the facts ? The textile industry employs directly not more than 7,50,000 workers, depriving over 20 times that number of cottage handspinners and weavers of their means of livelihood? Does Somaniji think that when the Ambar Charkhas are introduced there will be no cotton grown, implements made, transport services run, stores working and services rendered ? What is incredible is the credulity with which people like Somaniji still indulge in sheer absurdities. To tell the truth : The Snow-ball effect has left the millions breathless. It has taken the breath of life away from them.

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"The producers do not ask for a higher production target for mills out of any selfish or sordid motives. It is in wider national interest that there should be an abundant supply of cloth at economic prices."

—G. D. Somani

Their concern for the nation is touching for it touches everyone's pocket at so many points. Their motive is patriotic. Let us quote the Union Finance Minister's very illuminating certificate in the Lok Sabha: "The private sector made profits by methods which would not be tolerated in the public sector. For example, cloth prices went up

by 70 per cent inside one month or two months when controls were lifted in 1948......Managing Agents of Companies in the private sector took away ten to twelve and a half per cent of the gross profits. ..." Shri Deshmukh said, he could give instances of daily allowances of Rs. 200 in the private sector and of businessmen charging travelling allowances for themselves and their families when they went on a holiday. "I hardly know of any businessman who owns a car for himself or who lives in his own house. There are palaces available for them whether it is Delhi or Bombay or Calcutta or wherever it is. I believe all their entertainment is at the cost of their company."

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Innovations

One very encouraging result of the widespread popular interest that the recent controversy on the Ambar Charkha had evoked is the interest shown by technical institutions and engineers in the development of the Ambar Charkha. Many a new model has come out during the last few months. Of these the 16-spindle Ambar Charkha developed in Coimbatore under the aegis of the Madras Government is worth mentioning. Experiments for the technical improvement of the Ambar Charkha had been going on in one of the leading textile engineering firms in that textile centre in the South. The experiments have now passed the factory and laboratory stage. The Madras State Khadi and Village Industries Board at a recent meeting examined this new model and decided to launch at an early date a pilot scheme for field tests. The pilot scheme envisages the introduction of 100 of these charkhas which it is claimed can be operated by hand. It is also claimed that the spinner operating on this model could earn Rs. 3 to Rs. 4/- a day and that the yarn spun on it will favourably compare with mill yarn. In price, too, it is said it will compare with the price of mill yarn. This new model will soon be displayed before the public and the Planning authorities. The price of the Charkha is said lo be Rs. 1,000, but could be considerably less if mass produced in factories. Whether this 16-spindle hand-operated Ambar Charkha can be introduced on a wide cottage scale with facility at this stage is a matter for close examination. Several factors enter into this, namely, the price factor, its mechanism, serviceability and such other things. These questions will, of course, receive due consideration at the appropriate time. Be that as it may, what is significant is that inventive genius in the country has been awakened by the invention of the Ambar Charkha and the knowledge of its potentialities. It is necessary to give edge to this new expression of the creative instinct in our people. The acceptance by the State of the Ambar Charkha, as it is, will provide this edge and incentive towards sustained efforts towards devising progressive tools and implements. It is in this spirit that the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board and the Khadi workers and Institutions in the country have worked to persuade the Government not to delay its sanction to the Board's programme for 1956-57. As this programme gets into stride, the improved models would have been extensively tried and tested and could be introduced, with such adjustments as may be found necessary, before the year is out. Then again, the improvements now devised cannot be the last word in the development of the techniques of spinning implements. Research and experiments will continue for greater and better devices. But all this effort will come only if the right incentive is provided. As the old adage says: "It is foolish to stretch your legs before you sit."

INTENSIVE AREA SCHEME AT WORK

(By : *REPORTER*)

The Second All-India Conference at Sahson of the Organizers and workers in the Intensive Area Scheme of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board has special significance not only because it was inaugurated by Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, but also because of one year's experience in the working of the scheme.

The first Conference was held in April 1955 at Ajagara, 40 miles from Banaras City. That Conference considered the survey report and the plan prepared on the conclusions of that survey for the village of Raiyan in the Ajagara Area. The problem of Raiyan as it emerged from the survey was one of low productivity and an undiversified economy. Compared to the villages in the same tract Raiyan had 400 acres of good soil, better irrigation facilities, a good bamboo plantation and its population of 400 were not behind anybody in the amount of work they put in. But their agricultural practices were inferior, they did not use manure, their implements were inefficient and as a result, in spite of a high level of employment, their level of production and their income were low. What was true of agriculture was also true of the few other occupations that existed in Raiyan. The land in Raiyan produced only about 60 per cent of what it could produce under improved methods of farming. The task of diversifying the economy was difficult by the people's unwillingness to give up their traditional occupations and to take up some non-agricultural occupations outside their caste. This restricted the mobility of the labour force.

The Raiyan Plan

The Raiyan plan said : "The Plan for Raiyan is to tackle the problem of raising the productivity of land, labour and livestock and to try to diversify the economy as much as possible. While it is granted that any plan for a predominently agricultural community has to be at least for a period of five to ten years, the Plan for Raiyan has been prepared for only one year which is considered as a period of training and of demonstrating the economic possibilities of other occupations besides agriculture.... The Plan for Raiyan is directed towards increasing production of those items to levels which will meet the requirements of the village and also leave the surplus for export, so that, at the present level of local consumption,

fuller employment may be provided to the village. The following table gives a comparison between the present consumption and production at the time of the survey and standard requirements and planned production :

Item	Units.	Present consumption.	Standard requirements.	Present production.	Planned production.
Cereals	Mds.	1,700	1,350	1,200	3,000
Pulses	,,	650	250	580	730
Vegetables	,,	400	900	525	1,100
Oil	,,	75	140	50	150
Gur	,,	190	170	30	210
Milk	,,	400	850	600	900
Fruits	,,	—	252	—	—
Fodder	,,	—	6,600	—	6,600
Cloth	Yds.	5,200	7,400	—	7,400

After A Year

A year had passed since the plan was formulated. Before the Sahson Conference an assessment of the results of the working of the Raiyan Plan could not be prepared as it was too early to make an evaluation survey and assess achievements. But preliminary surveys on the working of the Plan had been conducted. These preliminary survey have brought forth the fact that the hurdles apprehended during the period of the first Survey had been overcome by the determination of the people themselves to create conditions of their own progress and the progress of their village. In the field of agricultural production the working of the Plan has shown an increase of nearly 82 per cent over the previous year's production, as can be seen from the following table;

Items	Units.	1954	1955	Percentage of increase.
Cereals	Mds.	1,200	1653.20	38
Pulses	,,	580	831.40	43
Vegetables	,,	525	1087.00	107
Other products	,,	—	467.00	
Total		2305	4038.10	82

These are not the final figures as detailed enquiries are being undertaken.

The Lessons

This significant increase during the period of hardly one year of the working of the Raiyan Plan has its own lessons. Given proper guidance and understanding of their needs and aspirations, the village people can be mobilised to put in efforts which produce very substantial results. As in agricultural production, so in other directions as well, the people of Raiyan village have displayed a high degree of unity of purpose and capacity for joint effort. Whether it was the question of approaching the local Government officials, such as the agricultural inspector, or of increasing the share capital of their co-operative society and borrowing from the Bank, or of planning of Shramdan work, Raiyan has set a unique example in community spirit. A glimpse of this can be had from the following passage from the preliminary report :

"The Village Development Committee has been carrying on the work of Shramdan and construction. Through Shramdan of 3,000 labour days two old irrigation wells were repaired and two new wells were constructed. Ten men worked for one month on this construction and it was valued at Rs. 4,500. Fifteen men worked for 8 days to lay bricks on 3 furlongs and 20 ft. of the village road. A batch of five persons worked for ten days to put up two community bathrooms and three urinals and 20 compost pits. Twenty men worked for 15 days to fill up a ditch and level the land that the community has donated for the Parishramalaya. The village community as a whole maintains a Balwadi where children are taught. Thirty children attend school there. Social barriers have been broken and the Ahir, Koir, Mar, Bania, Lohar and Teli of the village now mix freely without any caste restrictions and they interdine. If a family faces some financial crisis the Village Development Committee calls a meeting and decides to make collections from every family, thus eliminating the money lender who has continued to exploit the credulous village people."

The report further says that the Village Development Committee has succeeded in taking over the trade to and from the village. "It has created an organization which purchases articles of daily necessity coming from outside and distributes them to the villagers at reasonable rates. This Committee also purchases the products produced by the village folk and cultivators and helps them to market them at favourable prices, It has thus succeeded in a large measure to bring about a balance of trade in the village."

Khadi work has also shown considerable progress in the village. Five families have become self-sufficient in cloth, except for the saris for the women because saris are not made in the village. A bullock chakki has been put up for the benefit of the village people

and a start has been made with seri-culture.

Hope Justified

Thus from every point of view the preliminary survey has justified the hope of the First Raiyan Survey which said: "Working of the plan during the next year will show the people of Raiyan putting forth a great effort to increase the productivity of their different factors of production. The methods they will adopt will not involve installation of any costly machinery either for irrigating their lands or to process their raw materials. The pople of Raiyan realised that they cannot afford to wait for the capital equipment or grumble about the non-availability of finance. But Raiyan's progress lies in Raiyan's people exploiting more efficiently Raiyan's resources."

The few facts stated above fully demonstrate that Raiyan's people have risen to the occasion and utilized their resources and planned their production programmes to accord with the needs of the people of the village. Such was the encouraging background against which the Sahson Conference was held.

Sultanpur Village

This second Conference was held in Sahson, a village 16 miles from Allahabad City, between the 5th and 9th April. As in the previous year, this year, too, the conference was preceded by a survey of a typical Village. The village selected was Sultanpur. The results of the survey were depicted in vivid charts which were displayed at the Sultanpur Ambar Charkha Parishramalaya. Shri Nehru who arrived there at 5 p.m. on the 5th, was given a thundering ovation by the large numbers of men and women from surrounding villages, who had gathered outside the Shamiana erected for the inaugural function. Shri Nehru who was accompanied by Shri Lal Bahadur Sastri and Shrimati Indira Gandhi, was received by Shri Jhaverbhai Patel who showed him round the Ambar Charkha Demonstration that was going on at the time and invited his attention to the charts on Sultanpur.

The facts revealed by these charts were that the working force of Sultanpur was engaged 75 acres of cultivable land and in occupations like ekka driving, blacksmithy, pottery, barber, pig rearing, etc. Of this working force 68 were men who constituted just half of their time to assist their men folk during the agricultural season. Of the 68 men only 32 were engaged in agriculture and the rest eked out their living through other pursuits. The following lable shows the occupational pattern in the village:

Occupational Pattern

Sl. No.	Occupations.	No. of males.	Degree of Employment
1.	Agriculture only	32	53%
2.	Agriculture with subsidiary occupations	19	62%
3.	Ekka Driving	5	75%
4.	Pottery	4	33%
5.	Barber	3	81%
6.	Blacksmithy	4	80%
7.	Service	1	100%

Low Incomes

The total income of the village from these occupations came to about Rs. 20,000 a year or provided a per capita income of less than Rs. 75 a year. Of the total income, agriculture accounted for nearly 55 per cent. The Intensive Area Scheme had been in operation in the Sultanpur Village for nearly 18 months during which a Gram Vikas Mandal had been formed to look into the problems of the village and, by a process of survey and planning, to infuse a new dynamism in its economy. As the activities proceeded, a new sense of community feeling developed among the villagers and they took up some schemes of village development such as road-making and deepening village tanks, etc. A significant demonstration of this new community feeling was the help that the village rendered to five of its harijan families in re-building their mud houses with bricks.

The survey was completed with the active co-operation and participation of the people in the village and the plan had been prepared on the basis of that survey. What is important about the plan was that each family knew how it would stand a year hence and three years hence when it has worked the plan. The plan provided :

1. for training in the new occupations the village decided to take up,
2. for a systematic crop planning, and
3. for a programme of land improvement, taking advantage of the additional irrigation facilities provided by tube wells.

The plan also provided for a Community Production Centre in the village which would be set up and maintained by the Villagers out of their own resources. The Community Centre would keep implements so that persons with idle time on their hand could utilise them to augment their earnings.

Four Ambar Charkhas would be supplied to individual families and an equal number would be kept at the centre. As a result of the execution of the plan, higher production of the major items in the village would increase and new items like gur manufacture, cloth and leather production would be introduced to make the village self-sufficient.

The production programme according to the plan is set out in the following table :

Present and planned production

Items	Present Production	Planned Production
Cereals	1,000 Mds.	1.500 Mds.
Pulses	400 ,,	425 ,,
Oil Seeds	80 ,,	1,105 ,,
Sugarcane*	·75 ,,	350 ,,
Vegetables	90 ,,	750 ,,
Cloth	150 Sq. Yds.	6,000 Sq. Yds.
Clay good. (in Rs.)	1,000	(in Rs.) 2,000
Leather* (in Rs.)	–	(in Rs.) 1,000

*These are newly introduced to the village.

New Pattern

In the new occupational pattern devised by the plan, only 25 men would be engaged in agriculture and the rest would derive their incomes from occupations like leather work, fibre weaving and cotton growing, spinning and weaving, etc. The following table shows the new distribution according to occupations :

S. No.	Occupations.	No. of adult working males engaged	
		Present	Planned
1.	Agriculture only	32	25
2.	Agri. with some subsidiary occupations	19	12
3.	Ekka Driving	5	4
4.	*Teli	–	1
5.	*Carding	–	1
6.	Blaaksmithy	4	4
7.	*Ambar Charkha spinning	–	4
8.	*Weaving	–	4
9.	Pottery	4	3
10.	*Fibre	–	2
11.	*Leather	–	2
12.	Barber	3	2
13.	*Construction	–	2
14.	Service	1	2

Note : *These are newly introduced to the village.

The Plan

The plan envisaged that, as a result of its successful implementation, the aggregate income of the village would increase to Rs. 30,000 at the end of the first year of which income from agriculture will be only 50 per cent and the balance would be derived through other occupations. At the end of the third year, with all the industries introduced for development and improved agriculture, the income of the village would rise to about Rs. 44,000. The effect of such a development after providing for the likely increase in the population, would step up the per capita income to about Rs. 140 a year. On a rough estimate the plan estimated, Rs. 6,000 would be required to finance it. This worked out to an outlay of Rs. 70 per head as against Rs. 180 per head provided for in the Outline of the Second Five Year Plan.

What is significant in the plan is that it set in motion a new type of developmental activity on the maximum utilisation of local resources by the people themselves and with a rational deployment of man-power in diverse productive activity.

Such were the facts that Shri Jawaharlal Nehru gleaned as he closely studied the Sultanpur charts.

The Welcome Address

Shri Jhaverbhai Patel who welcomed the Prime Minister, dealt with these salient features of the Sultanpur survey and plan and said :

"Your interest in the welfare of the poor and your intolerance of injustice in any form have made you a crusader for social progress and social equality. You have brought to the voiceless millions in the country, resigned to their fate for long years, the hope of a new and a better life. This hope has provided the energy behind whatever movement of resurgence there is in the country today.

"Sultanpur, I venture to suggest, is the symbol of this new spirit of hope. Here the Intensive Area Scheme of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board has been working for the last 18 months. We wanted you to see what it has done to the people, how it seeks to reconstruct their life and to create conditions for their progress. It is this desire of ours that has emboldened us to invite you here at a time when Sultanpur and the villages around will be taking a forward move towards a planned development."

The Scheme

Referring to the Intensive Area Scheme he said :

"The Intensive Area Scheme is a humble effort to reconstruct and remodel India's rural economy and to give it an integral form and content. This is to be brought about by the people themselves. Our scheme only provides the drive and direction. The basic principle of this development is Antyodaya, that is to say, the creation of the earnest desire in the community to raise up its lowest strata by

providing the poorest, the means of employment. This can only be done by providing for a diversified economy in the villages, so that the dependence on land is reduced. Only with a decentralized occupational pattern can the rural economy be made dynamic and the sustenance for this can be provided by a proper village organisation. It is not the techniques of production, but the desire of the people to raise their standard of living that provides the dynamics of an economy.

"Sultanpur is an example of a village where such an experiment is being carried on. The Gram Vikas Mandal of the village has evolved a plan for raising the people's standard of living through a more rational occupational pattern.

Raiyan Experiment

"Last year we held a similar conference of our workers at Ajagara in Banaras District. Shri Lal Bahadur Sastri was kind enough to inaugurate it and exchange views with the workers. At that conference we discussed the plan prepared by the villagers of Raiyan. Since then this process of planning has been initiated in one village in almost each of our selected areas. We have now 35 intensive areas spread over the country. In Raiyan, as a result of the planning process, the people have come closer together and have been able to achieve a higher production in agriculture by crop planning and introducing better methods. They have, recently on their own initiative decided to run a co-operative store. They are now planning even the social expenditure of each family so that for mere prestige no family runs into debts and the whole village shares the expenditure. In Raiyan village the process of village planning has created a healthy atmosphere for Gramikaran on which the Intensive Area Scheme lays great stress.

"The story of Sultanpur is the tragic story of a disproportionately large population trying some how to eke out a bare living out of a little land. Sultanpur consists of 42 families with a total population of 271. As a result of the working of the Intensive Area Scheme, the consciousness of one village family-Grama Parivar – has been growing."

Shri Jhaverbhai briefly narrated the facts emerging from the survey and stated what plans had been evolved for the area through a diversification of the economy of the village and a rational utilisation of the manpower in occupations other than agriculture.

Nehru Blesses the Scheme

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru responding to the request to address a few words to the 250 and odd Intensive Area workers and organizers gathered for the Conference said* : "I have come here to meet you all. I want to know how you have been carrying on your work and learn something from you and get acquainted with all that has been going

*Shri Nehru spoke in Hindi. What is published here is a free rendering of the speech in English.

on here.

We are faced with many problems when we sit down to plan for the development of the country. These problems raise other complex questions. We have to examine these problems and these questions and find out proper solutions for them. We make use of the railways and aeroplanes. We utilize steel for many purposes. These are at present imported from abroad in large quantities and a large amount of our money goes to foreign countries. We cannot do without them, as they are essential for the development of our country. We have, therefore to manufacture these things ourselves. For the manufacture of these, large-scale factories and machines are essential and we have to establish these factories and workshops and make the machines for them in the next five years.

Work and Wages

I need not tell you about the plans we have for the Second Five Year period. A high place is given in those plans for the setting up of new plants for the production of large quantities of steel. Steel represents the strength of a country and its economy. But these big industries and factories cannot provide large-scale employment. In our country we are faced with the problem of increasing unemployment and under-employment. This has resulted in extreme poverty among large sections of our people. We have to devise the means by which we can provide employment to very large numbers of our people to give them work and wages. This question has always haunted us and we have been giving our utmost thought to find out a workable solution. It is here that the experiments that you are carrying out through your intensive areas schemes will have significance. I have seen something of the work you have been carrying on in Sultanpur. Here villagers carry out development programme on the basis of plans chalked out by themselves or in consultation with them. It is an interesting experiment. Any plan evolved from the top, however good it may be and however much the people might be attracted towards it, does not result in quick benefit for all areas and all people. Some people who are more intelligent and enterprising and have more knowledge about the plan and its working, derive greater benefit. Those who are entitled to get an equal measure of these benefits or to whom these should first come, get it either very late or do not get at all. But I presume that your Plan and the method introduced to formulate it will have their impact and effect on every family in the village. This is a desirable way of planning and will create conditions which result in improvement and demonstrable progress.

Self-Sufficiency

Your scheme of village self-sufficiency is also a significant one. The benefits of schemes will not be restricted to the village concerned. Experiences accruing from the successful working of

self-sufficiency schemes will have their impact on the country as a whole. In a country such as ours which is vast and which has a vast population a majority of which is without work, the important thing is to find work for them. The place of small-scale and village industries comes here. Some of the goods which are most in use and which can be produced by small-scale and village industries are also produced by large-scale industries. No doubt, we can reserve the production of some of these articles for the small-scale industries. But we must first evolve a principle and determine what goods can be reserved to which sector. Large-scale industries are often governed by the profit motive which has led to accumulation of what is called wealth. Money is accounted as wealth, but let me tell you that gold and silver do not constitute wealth. Wealth—real wealth—is work. To work and to produce is to create wealth. Even a little production by the small producer is wealth and will be a welcome addition to the nation's economy.

Small Producer

India is spread out in five lakhs of villages. We have a population of 380 crores. Our resources in money are limited and not great. Our resources are in the vast manpower we have. If all these millions of people who live in the villages engage themselves in productive work, we can change the whole face of the country and set a new tone to its development. The village producer may not be highly skilled worker. He may not have modern machines. These are secondary things. The primary factor is that the man is put to work. Even if he produces a little and if millions of people likewise produce, the aggregate volume of the production will be huge and will make a huge contribution to national production. Such production is not insignificant. Nor is it a thing that can be easily ignored. I attach great importance, therefore, to the generation of an atmosphere of work in the countryside. We must produce all these goods which we consume. Once the caravan of our country starts its journey on the path of progress, it will never stop. We have to strive to set the caravan in motion and in this effort, we must take care to see that none is left behind or that the benefit of this onward march is denied to even the smallest among us.

Changing Times

But we must take note of the changes that are taking place in the world today. Even India is not what she was some 20 years ago. There will be more and rapid changes and the conditions of today will not be the conditions tomorrow or ten years hence. The rapidly increasing means of communication has changed the structure of our national economy and has entirely upset the fabric of our society. The last 100 years had brought about a number of changes. Every village has today become an open market where not only the articles manufactured in our cities

but from foreign countries as well are easily available. Our traditional structure of village economy and self-sufficiency has been shattered. No other system to absorb the shock and to set the people on alternate lines of development has been provided to them. The result is that village remain disintegrated units. We have to protect our villages against this onslaught from cities. But in doing so, we should also see that we are not fettered against progress.

Improved Techniques

We cannot ignore improved techniques in production. We, of course, do not want to become slaves of machines. Improved techniques or machines should come as a help to the man who works on them. The Ambar Charkha in this sense, is a welcome machine. It is small and beautiful and I am sure that it will be improved further. It can be usefully employed in our war against poverty and unemployment. Many methods can be employed in the struggle for prosperity. But, whatever the methods we employ, we must keep two basic considerations before us. These are :

(1) We have to create opportunities and means for providing employment to all so that none should remain unemployed. Experiments now being carried on in this direction in Sultanpur are of vital importance. The value of the progress made in this small village should not be belittled. If all the villages follow its example there is no doubt that the whole country will progress;

(2) We should judge how far we can progress by our own efforts. I do not mean to say that such village schemes should not get aid from the Central or State Governments. This aid they should get and they are already receiving.

Today your schemes cover 35 Intensive Areas, that is, very nearly 1000 villages. Success of your work in these villages will have a vital importance and will throw much light on many a big problems before the country and, may be, indicate the ways of solving them."

Sahson Exhibition

From Sultanpur Shri Nehru and party motored down to Sahson, the headquarters of the Intensive Area. There an area of nearly 12,000 sq. ft. had been transformed into a colourful exhibition of village arts, industries and crafts. The Uttar Pradesh Government took up spacious areas for the demonstration of improved methods of cultivating cereals and pulses, village planning and maintenance of fruit gardens. Besides, an extensive exhibition of cane-crushing and gur and khandsari manufacture had also been arranged.

A peculiar feature of this exhibition, apart from the importance given to cultivation and village planning, was that products from the intensive area

centres dominated the show. Each of the areas had exhibited, apart from products of the traditional village industries newly introduced in their areas, products of local artisans and carftsmen. Looking round these stalls of the Intensive Area scheme, one was struck with the myriad number of articles in common use that could locally be manufactured from raw materials easily available there and with local skills. Some of these articles combined beauty, colour and elegance with utility. They covered screwpine mats, a variety of articles from palm leaves, wood work, Khadi done in varied colourful designs, household articles with particular emphasis on kitchen equipments and the like.

There were, besides, the usual demonstrations of the processes of manufacturing other village industries products. Thus, for example, there was handpounding of rice with improved chakkis, manufacture of paper, crushing of oil seeds by the ghanis, grinding flour, processing cotton and spinning and weaving of different kinds. The visitor could have a camparative study of the improvements in pottery production through the old potter's wheel and the new improved wheel which is being introduced by the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board. Carcass recovery and leather schemes of the Board were explained in charts. Toys and toy-making, exquisite handicraft work and metal and horns were attractive components of this Exhibition. The Gandhi Ashram, Meerut and the Sarvodaya Ashram of Sevapuri had arranged beautiful demonstration of Khadi of various types in different colours and designs. On the whole, the Exhibition was neatly arranged and presented the village products and the skill of the artisans to the best advantage. The exhibition proved to be extremely popular. For the four days it ran, five to eight thousand people visited it every day. What was of particular interest was the keenness with which the village women took to the exhibition and the way village tools were being employed.

Nehru's Exhortation

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, Shri Lal Bahadur Sastri and Shrimati Indira Gandhi and others were taken round the Exhibition by Shri Jhaverbhai Patel. The Prime Minister seemed to be attracted by the new things that had come from the Intensive Area centres and made enquiries about a number of them. Having seen the Exhibition, he climbed up the rostrum arranged on the terrace of the new building that was coming up some 18 ft. high from the ground level. Before him was a sea of humanity spread out on a vast ground which extended as far as the eye could reach. Men and women and children from Sultanpur and Sahson villages and villages far and near had come in gay colourful attires and spread themselves into this huge open space. Enclosures had been specially erected for women. As Shri Nehru sat on a high stool, before him were thousands of peasants.

Perhaps the scene and the atmosphere reminded him of other times and occasions. For, when he began addressing them, there was the old familiar ring in his voice and often he was choked with emotion. But his talk to the crowd was homely and he told them the story of their own lives and the way they were now trying to change them in new directions and for newer purposes. He said: "I have just now seen the Exhibition that has been so well arranged. I hope all of you will visit it and introduce the new schemes and experiments in your villages. Our country is making rapid progress. Big factories and workshops and river valley projects are being constructed and new ones are being launched. These will help the country to produce more food grains and other goods which we all need. But there are other things we have to do if we are to progress. Our country lives in its villages. Unless the conditions in the villages improve, there will be no happiness; there will be no prosperity. It is, therefore, important that we must improve the conditions in the villages. It is an uphill task. Our people are poor, illiterate and ignorant. The problem of the villages is the problem of poverty. We have to wage war against poverty. This war is even bigger than the war of independence that we waged with our alien rulers. We have to fight and overpower the demon of poverty. We have to reorganise our economy in such a way that all people join in the sacred task of producing something or the other and make our country prosperous. Wealth should not be concentrated in a few individuals or institutions. It must be more evenly distributed. Of course, as some people are more intelligent and efficient and they produce more, there will be some disparities. This is very natural, too. But the basic fact is that all should get opportunities of work and the facilities for progress. Our plans aim to provide these. They are aimed at the raising of living standards of the people. The objects cannot be achieved without strenuous efforts. Mere slogans will not solve our problem. Nor can it be done by the Government issuing orders. The people themselves will have to achieve this end by their hard work and enterprise. The State can only aid the people in their efforts.

Problem of Poverty

The people must broadly be aware of what is happening around them or what achievements are being made in their district. They must also know what progress is being achieved in other parts of the country. In India we are faced with the problem of eradicating poverty from our country. We all need houses to live in, food to satisfy our hunger and clothes to cover our body. Their abundance alone will be conducive to our happiness and well-being. We need consumer goods and not gold and silver. The latter are only a means for trade and commerce. These consumer goods can be produced

in factories and in the villages. By dint of hard work we have to increase the production of our daily necessities. You must be remembering that four or five years back there was a huge scarcity of food-stuffs in our country and a large amount of precious money from our poor land flowed into foreign countries for purchasing food supplies. Working hard in the direction of increasing our agricultural produce, we tided over the crisis. We have to increase our agricultural yield even more. We can adopt new and improved methods for this purpose. We have to develop our village industries, too, because they are capable of giving employment to all, produce consumer goods and daily necessities. All this adds to national wealth, which means prosperity for all. But all this cannot be achieved by means of legislation; they can be achieved through the co-operative effort of you all.

Village Industries

Our co-operative societies can achieve a great deal. Even fifty or hundred persons can join to form co-operative societies and a co-operative farm to carry on agriculture. But we cannot wait for others to join us. Those who want to remain outside our co-operatives are free to do so. When they come to know of the benefits of the co-operatives, they will themselves like to join us. Schools, hospitals and roads have to be constructed in these villages and small scale and village industries have to be started. These schools and hospitals will lead to literacy and good health among the villagers and the village industries will give them employment. These tasks we have to fulfil in our Second Five Year Plan. You all are aware of our projects and programmes which are for the good and welfare of the people. We have to develop all these schemes, especially the village industries.

To The Women

Today I went round Kamala Nehru Gram Vidyalaya in Allahabad which is doing service of training women social workers for one year. We have to train large numbers of women who can do constructive work in the villages. It is a pity that people are still hesitant in sending their women-folk to such training institutions. They are a meeting ground of persons of all communities. They help in removing barriers of caste and creed, though nobody's religion is affected.

When the country passes through a revolution, it brings about many-sided changes, besides political evolution. You must know we are working out a revolution in a new way—our own way. Mahatma Gandhi led us on an unique path and we succeeded in throwing away the yoke of foreign rule. But now we have to reorganise our national economy, to give food and employment to all, to devise ways and means for the progress of the people of all castes and creeds. Old customs are fast changing and we have to give more rights to our

women-folk. We have to bring consciousness and awakening among the women-folk because they are the mothers of the future citizens of India.

Next month will usher in our Second Five Year Plan which is bigger in magnitude than the first one. After that we will have a third plan. Other people in the world wonder at our method of attaining independence peacefully and making economic progress in the same way and they want to benefit by our experiences in various fields. Therefore, a great responsibility lies on our shoulders. Shall we fail in our efforts ? No. We shall not. Our people have shown what they can achieve. They will achieve still greater things. It is only through the achievement of big things by the people that our country will become big and great."

The vast gathering listened to the Prime Minister in pin-drop silence. At the conclusion of the speech, he called out to the crowd to shout with him "JAI HIND" and the response was thunderous.

Lal Bahadur Shastri's Address.

The next day (6-4-56) Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri again came to Sahson to meet the Intensive Area Scheme workers and exchange thoughts with them. Shri Jhaverbhai Patel welcomed Shri Sastri and wanted him to take personal interest in the work in the Area.

Addressing the workers Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri wanted them to look upon him as one among them. He had come to the Conference not as a Minister. He wanted to know more about the work they were doing and to be acquainted with the way in which they were going about it. "I have read your brochure about the Intensive Area Scheme. It appeared to me very attractive. But I wondered how much of it was idealism and how much was practical. What I saw yesterday when I came with the Prime Minister has impressed me. Jawaharlalji, too, seemed to be impressed. He had your literature. He had not, however, studied all that was written in it. You know he has hardly much time to devote to reading of this type. But he had broadly grasped what your scheme was. Before he came here, he appeared to be rather sceptical. I am glad he came to inaugurate your Conference. He had thus an opportunity of seeing first-hand what your work is and how you go about it. He saw your work in Sultanpur and the facts you had brought out about Sultanpur. He saw also how you are working out your programmes. These have impressed him and has caught his attention. I could see this when we were discussing after the function this and other matters. I feel that he thinks that your approach is good and there is the proper perspective. If you succeed in your methods, it will bring about a radical orientation in the entire concept of planning. Your plans have evoked his interest and appreciation."

Shri Shastri then, said that he himself had been yearning to take to such work, give more time to it and if possible to take charge of a few Areas for development. But his work in the Government demanded all his attention. There were many questions relating to railways and transport which were intimately connected with the whole question of national development. Though sometimes the feeling came over him to leave all that work and go to the villages and engage himself in the work of rural reconstruction, he had not been able to throw up the duties he had undertaken. Moreover, it was necessary that some people should be in the Government, people who had their background and training in Gandhiji's constructive programmes and his methods of work and organisation. Their presence did help when problems of planning and programmes of development were discussed.

"Today there is a controversy as to whether we should take to small-scale industries or large-scale mechanized industries for our progress. This controversy is engaging the attention of all. Powerful interests are at work. In this controversy economics and technology figure prominently. The case of village industries, even of the Ambar Charkha, is subjected to scrutiny on these criteria. We hold the view that the solid structure of our national economy can be built up by organising small-scale and village industries on scientific lines. It is for us to demonstrate that those who assail our programme are wrong. This can be done only by practical results. We should, therefore, give up academic discussions. We should divert all our energies to our programmes and their efficient execution. The results achieved, not our declaration of faith, will attract them towards our scheme."

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri continued that plans devised from above would not be of much benefit to the people. Quoting some examples he said: "We may construct big hospitals, post offices, etc. but unless those working in them perform their duties with sincerity, their purpose will not, properly, be served. Suppose a booking clerk in a station does not attend to his duty properly and he opens the booking window only five minutes before the arrival of the train, the public will be put to a great deal of inconvenience and even if we have big buildings for the station and provide many amenities their purpose will not be achieved."

"Similarly if a doctor or a compounder in a hospital looks down upon a poor peasant and does not provide him with the service that can be got from the hospital, even its big and imposing building will not satisfy or impress the people. It is, therefore, necessary that the morale and character of the people in charge of such institutions should be high and they should be inspired by the spirit of service, for, service is its own reward. I have referred to these things only to emphasise the fact that tall talk has little

meaning when we aim at big achievement. What we do must conform to what we want to achieve. Our ways of life, our every act, should be in tune with the faith we profess. Character and moral living are the twin equipments which will live as visible demonstration of what we wish the society to be. After all our professions, our faith, our actions will be judged by the way we live up to them. Individual behaviour and conduct, therefore, is intimately connected with the objects we have set before ourselves. Moral courage alone will give us strength for carrying out our mission and it will pave the way for our country's progress."

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri promised to devote at least twelve days in a year to Sahson Intensive Area. He expressed the view that if the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board started more schemes in Allahabad district, he would try to devote more time for such work.

Village Industries

Shri Annada Prasad Chowdhuri, Member of the All India Khadi Board, who followed, addressed the Conference on the problems connected with the development of village industries. He referred to the place that these industries occupied in the economy of the country in the long past and traced the causes of their decay and virtual disappearance. This decay completely upset the structure of the rural economy of the country and the burden on the land began to increase. The articles in common use which these industries produced, began to be manufactured by large-scale factories in the cities. Between development of this new method of industrial production and the decay of the old village industries, the artisans were provided with no other alternate system of organisation or productive work. The result had been that those who pursued manufacturing professions in the countryside, were reduced to penury and to conditions of sub-marginal existence. Those who had land went to it and those who had nothing eked out their livelihood somehow.

It was in such a situation that Mahatma Gandhi appeared on the scene and drew the attention of the people to the villages. He told us that India lived in her 500 and odd thousand villages and posed the question: "Who lives if the villages die"? Gandhiji drew up his constructive programme for the rehabilitation and development of the village economy through concerted efforts at the revival of hand-spinning and handweaving, on the one hand, and other village industries which produced articles of daily consumption, on the other. This programme was the foundation on which the national struggle was built. It was this programme again that brought a new hope to the masses.

Our Demand

In free India these masses of our people had a right to live, to work and to earn a decent living. What those who advocated the development of village industries, arts and crafts demanded

was that what belonged to the villages should be restored to them. All talk of the economics of production and productivity were beside the point. Likewise references to the tools and techniques of village industries was also meaningless. If these artisans in the villages had not been deprived of their occupations, they would have created conditions of work which would have been in tune with the developments that had taken place during the last 100 and more years. It was an irony that, having denied them their occupations and the means of living, they should be told that they were backward and their tools and techniques were primitive. Those who spoke thus about the vast millions in the countryside had lost all sense of social and human values. The movement for the development of village industries was a social and moral challenge of our times and if the country did not rally to this cause there would be a new resurgence, the consequence of which was not easy to tell. Those who stood in the way of the development of these industries and the progress of the people in the country-side would only block the way of national progress towards prosperity and plenty. "What we demand is not an approach of pity and charity. What we demand is the return to the villagers what belongs to them."

Dr. Melkote, Industries Minister of the Government of Hyderabad, next addressed the Conference. He stressed the need for the introduction of modern techniques in village production. He wanted the extensive use of electricity and other sources of power to augment production and to improve the quality of the produce. He particularly emphasised the vast scope for the use of power in the field of agriculture. He was aware of the limitation to the use of power at present. What he wished was that the Conference should delcare its attitude on the subject.

Pranlal's Hopes

Shri Pranlal Kapadia, addressing the Conference, declared that the Intensive Area Scheme of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board was an important part of its programme. It was in these areas that experiments with intensive development schemes of Khadi and village industries would be carried out in a more concentrated manner. The Board had great expectations about the working of its schemes, particularly the Ambar Charkha scheme, in the Intensive Areas. They had to demonstrate that area self-sufficiency was a practical programme and could be achieved. If these expectations were to be fulfilled, there was need for those in charge of the Intensive Area development schemes to work with great energy and efficiency.

Today there was a great controversy over the economics of village industries vis-a-vis large-scale industries. It was being said that the village industries would not be able

to compete with large-scale industries and that the former were uneconomic and out-moded. It should be realized that the development of village industries was not conceived as a competitive factor in industrial development. It should also be realized that hand-made products could not compete with their machine-made counter-parts. The main consideration in programmes for the development of Khadi and village industries was its large employment possibilities. They helped to generate productive activity on a very large scale and on a very wide front. Its effects could be measured only in social progress and the betterment of the material conditions of the poorer sections in the community.

Produce For Use

The economics of village industries were in their *Swavalamban* aspect. The idea of production for a competitive market was far from the concept of production for use. "We must produce consumer goods only for their consumption in the areas where they are produced. If we adhere to this, then the proposition becomes economically feasible. If we utilise cotton that we grow in our fields for spinning yarn and to get that yarn woven into cloth, the cost involved will be so small that it will be cheaper than even mill cloth. By planting six or seven cotton trees in the backyards of the homes or along the hedges of compounds, a family can produce all the cotton it needs for its cloth requirements for about four or five years.

Similarly, there are other village industries which can be locally developed. The cake resulting from the crushing of non-edible oil seeds can be used as an effective weapon against plant pests and for protection of crops. The utilisation of dead animals would give valuable nitrogenous and phosphatic manures. Similarly everything that the people in the villages wanted can be produced by themselves out of resources available in and around the villages. It is this aspect of village industries development that should engage our attention more and more, and I am confident that in this effort the intensive area scheme of the Board will play a very important role.".

The Committees

The conference then discussed organisational problems and matters connected with Khadi and village industries development in the Intensive Areas. After a general discussion on the suggestion of Shri Jhaverbhai Patel seven different committees were appointed to go into the different aspects of organisation and work in the intensive areas. These committees and their convenors were:

1. **Executive Agencies Committee :**

Convenors:
1) Shri Vimal Shah
2) Shri Vithal Patwardhan.

2. **Training, Conference and Selection of new areas**:

   Convenors:
   1) Shri Chichghare
   2) Dhirubhai Desai
   3) Smt. Kusum Patwardhan.

3. **Village Planning**:

   Convenors:
   1) Shri Manohar Nadkarni
   2) Shri M. V. Dixit.

4. **Co-operative marketing**:

   Convenors:
   1) Shri Tyagi,
   2) Shri Gopaldas Dalal.

5. **Why Intensive Area Scheme ?**

   Convenor:
   1) Shri K. Janardanan Pillai.

6, **Village Industries Committee**:

   Convenors:
   1) Shri Alloobhai Shah
   2) Shri Prabhudas Gandhi
   3) Shri Dharampuriya

7. **Administration Organisation**:

   Convenors:
   1) Shri Manubhai Patel
   2) Shri Satyanathan
   3) Shri Mukundbhai Shah.

These committees were asked to report as early as possible.

On April 7th the Conference reassembled in the morning. Shri Annasaheb Sahasrabudhe was requested to preside over the Conference and guide its deliberations.

The report of the Committee on "Why Intensive Area Scheme" was presented by Shri Janardanan Pillai. The report ran into several typed foolscap sheets and covered practically every aspect of the Intensive Area programme of the Board. The report presented a clear enunciation of why the various programmes were being undertaken and met the criticism levelled against village industries, Khadi and other aspects of the programme for rural development. The report emphasised the self-sufficiency aspects of the scheme.

Basic Objective

Shri Annasaheb Sahasrabudhe complimented the committee on its comprehensive coverage of the various problems. He, however, wanted that emphasis should be given to the basic objective of the scheme which was to raise the standard of living of the people in the villages. In this connection the point that called for particular emphasis was the need to provide for them alternative occupations to agriculture or occupations supplementary to agriculture. The importance of this would be clear if it was recognized that in India the average per capita land holding was half to three-quarters of an acre, while in other countries like America it was 15 acres. It was clear that with such small per capita holdings it was impossible for any rural family to make both ends meet through agriculture alone. The need to provide them subsidiary or alternate occupations thus became a matter

of paramount importance. There was no other occupation which could easily fit in with the scheme of things in rural India except occupations such as hand-spinning, weaving and other village industries. But, for the execution of the programmes, they should set a time-table within which production targets should be achieved. An assessment of the progress made during the past year during which the scheme has been in progress would have facilitated their discussions in this regard.

Shri Vimal Shah reported on the findings of the Committee on Executive Agencies. The Committee's findings dealt with the relation of Gram Vikas Mandals with the Kshetra Samiti and the role of the Kshetra Samiti itself. The Committee also wanted a clear definition of the relations between the development Officer or the Area Organizer with the Kshetra Samiti and how the official functions of the Officers of the scheme could be co-ordinated with the executive authority of the Kshetra Samiti.

Shri Mukund Trivedi submitted the report on the Committee on Model Villages. Emphasis of the reports was on village planning and how this should be done. The discussion on these reports took up the rest of the day.

The Only Hope

Shri Satish Chandra, Deputy Minister for Production, attended the Conference on 8th April. The Conference was discussing the report of Committee on Co-operative Marketing when he arrived.

On being requested to address the Conference Shri Satish Chandra referred to the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board and its work. He recalled his early associations with the propagation of Mahatma Gandhi's constructive programme and said that politics now claimed most of his time and energy. He could, therefore, not claim to be well acquainted with the line and method of work of the Board but he believed that promotion of the activities it had undertaken alone held out hope of solving the difficult unemployment problem in the country. But there were others who scoffed at programmes for the development of Khadi and village industries. Nobody, however, denied that there was the massive unemployment problem and that it had to be attacked from different angles. Over 82 per cent of the population of the country was engaged in agriculture. "But our peasants have hardly half an acre of land on an average. Though the population has been increasing, the land under cultivation has remained the same in extent. Thus more and more people depended on land for there was no other productive occupation open for them. There are people who think that large-scale industrial development will provide the solution for the problem of unemployment in the country. I do not, however, think it is possible to eradicate unemployment that way.

Investment-Employment

I have come to believe that village and cottage industries can substantially

help in providing a solution for the problem. So when we plan for greater production of consumer goods in the country and for the economic development of the country, we must take into account our resources end decide on priorities. We must take into account our immense man-power resources and provide for their proper utilization. The second Five Year Plan, the outline of which has been published, has provided for the huge outlay of Rs. 4,800 crores in the public sector for the furtherance of programmes and projects which would ultimately benefit people. Three or four steel plants will be established at a cost of some Rs. 400 crores; but they will employ only a small number of people. The outlay per worker in such enterprises comes to over Rs. 1.25 lakhs. In the other big industries the outlay per worker will be of the order of Rs. 60,000 to Rs. 70,000. The outlay per worker in the village and cottage industries sector will be very very small. When very large numbers of people are helped to engage themselves in productive work, the aggregate production will also be very large. Social benefits accruing out of such a development will be significant for the progress of the country."

Shri Satish Chandra, however, expressed the view that for the progress of the country both the large-scale and the small and village scale industrial programmes were essential. "We have to apportion to them their proper place in our scheme of development. There are some goods that can be produced only by larqe-scale industries, while there are others which can easily be allotted to the small-scale sector. But the clash of interest arises between these two sectors when both are engaged in the production of the same type of articles. The problem of cloth is an instance in point. We need not enter into a controversy over the price cost factor involved in the production of mill-cloth and of hand-spun and hand-woven Khadi. What we are eager to promote is that those who produce Khadi should be enabled to have higher earnings while, at the same time, the costs of production should be progressively brought down."

Ambar Charkha

It is in this context that the Deputy Minister referred to the Ambar Charkha programme. The cost of the programme according to its critics, was waste of the nation's scarce resources. For his part, he considered such criticism pointless. What was, however, relevant was whether they had an adequate organization which could efficiently distribute 25 lakhs of Ambar Charkhas in the villages, arrange for the purchase and supply of cotton to the spinners, purchase their yarn, etc. There was then the problem of training and servicing. These were questions which had to be seriously considered. The Production Ministry was confident that the Ambar Charkha programme could be successfully launched. A decision on the programme would be taken after the examination of the data

now being collected. Pending a decision, however, sanction had been accorded for the manufacture of 10,000 Ambar Charkhas. "I have no doubt that the Ambar Charkha Programme will succeed."

The Village Worker

Shri Anna Saheb Sahasrabudhe intervening, referred to the experiments that were in progress in about 800 Bhoodan villages of Orissa. What they should realize when they entered the field of village work was that the condition in one village was not the same as in another and the state of development in one region was not the same as in another. "The essential condition for a village worker is that he approaches his tasks in a spirit of humility, friendliness and devotion. He should acclimatize himself to the local conditions and work his way to the hearts of the village people. Officiousness and the managerial approach will be disastrous. The village worker, that is to say, must function as a friend, guide and philosopher of the village people. With an approach in this spirit he will require immediate attention and apply himself to finding solutions for them. As water seeks its own level, this village worker, as he proceeds in his work of service, will also find his place in the reconditioning of the village. Howsoever we may formulate plans and whatever institutions we may have, these will, by and large, be conditioned by the present structure of society. They will, to a large extent, only reflect existing social conditions and, in their approach, will be influenced by preconceived ideas and notions. Such an approach may produce results, but in the long run will act as its own obstacle. What is essential is that our plans and our institutions must reflect the aspirations, emotions and desires of the people whom we seek to serve and whose conditions we seek to improve. The primary condition, before we enter into task of village reconstruction, is that we must have faith in the programme we seek to introduce and execute and must have faith in the village folk. An approach like this may not produce quick results, but if we succeed in it we lay foundation for a more rapid rate of progress as time passes".

The Approach

Proceeding Shri Anna Saheb said that the arguments that were being advanced during the discussion did not impress him very much. He did not agree with the view that it was the lack of educated persons to work in the villages that was causing delay and difficulties. From his own experience he cited example after example which went to show that lack of educated persons did not hinder progress in the 25 societies which he had set up in the Bhoodan villages of Koraput, Balasore, Raigada, etc. The societies were formed with the cooperation of the people and they looked after their needs. More than educated men what they wanted was honest men who should be trained for this purpose. Even in the matter of running these

societies or their stores, it should be left to the villagers to decide what articles should be displayed in them. "We may be puritanical. But our puritanism must be expressed through our personal life and behaviour. We should not try to thrust our particular use on the village people. As our work progresses and the influence of our behaviour seeps into the lives of the village community, changes in the personal habits and social behaviour of the people will come into the life of the village community. It is considerations such as these that should engage greater attention of intensive area workers, than adherence to a set pattern of work and programmes of development. These will have to be adjusted according to the given conditions of the areas in which we work and the level of development of the people in them".

In Orissa

Shri Anna Saheb gave a brief account of the work that had been undertaken in the Orissa villages.

Work in the villages given as Gramdan in the districts of Koraput, Ganjam and Balasore started in the month of November 1955. The total number of villages in all the three districts was nearly about 600 in Koraput, 50 in Ganjam and 150 in Balasore.

The area of Koraput itself is nearly 10,000 sq. miles and the villages given in Gramdan spead out from one end of the district to the other. The whole area was cut up in 6 Intensive Area units, four in Koraput, namely,

1. Ambola-Bisankatak-Chandrapur,
2. Gunpur-Gudari,
3. Naragan Patna-Raigada-Kalyansingpur, and
4. Nagpur, Similipuda, Koraput-Potangi;

one in Ganjam district, namely,

5. Gajamajile, and

one in Balasore district, namely,

6. Balasore.

This cutting up of the whole area into 6 units facilitated the work of organisation and management.

After a preliminary survey of whole area, a scheme for intensive development was prepared and sent to the Government of India for sanction.

Generally some fifteen to twenty Adivasi families form a village and the villages thus formed are spread out in the whole area, so distant from each other that it is impossible to take up the work of development in any one compact area. Besides, the whole district is hilly country and hardly any plain land existed for purpose of cultivation. There are no roads worth the name and in the rainy season communication between them becomes well-nigh impossible. These Adivasi families are generally in debt and their lands are mortgaged with the money-lenders and mahajans. They own no implements and bullocks and have to borrow them from

the money-lenders. Their annual income is between Rs. 150 to Rs. 200 per family. The members of adivasi families are employed during the four months of rainy season and for the rest of the year they have to shift for themselves with what employment they can get.

The rainfall of this area is between 50 to 70 inches but it cannot be utilised for purposes of irrigation of the land. The adivasis generally cultivate a piece of land for a year or two and then shift to some other land. This has been going on for centuries.

The Bhoodan and the Gramdan movement has created a new life and a new spirit in this part. Today all land of the villages is donated in Bhoodan and there is no private ownership of land as such. The work of redistributing the land was taken in hand as it was found necessary before any development work could be started. The workers were busy doing the work of redistributing the land till the month of December. Nearly the land of 200 villages has been redistributed and redistribution in the rest of the villages is expected to be finished before the next crop. The work is entrusted to a committee of some 7 or 8 elected members, the whole village being the electorate.

Economic Independence

In order that the economic advantages of development does not pass on to their exploiters, the first step taken is to open Bhandars in all the villages of this area. So far twenty such Bhandars have been opened and within a short time it is expected there will be one Bhandar in every centre. Four to six villages can participate in the formation of each Bhandar paying a rupee per family as share capital and 0-8-0 as membership fee. In this way a part of the capital required is collected by the people themselves. The Sarva Seva Sangh pays ten times the amount thus collected as loan, free of interest. The Sarva Seva Sangh has so far invested Rs. 15,000 in this way and by the time all the Bhandars are opened, the Sangh would have invested about Rs. 50,000 in development work. A worker, to look after the work is selected from among the villagers by the Gram Sabha which also decides the amount payable for the work done as remuneration. These Bhandars cater for all the necessities of life of the villagers. Some of the Bhandars remain open from morning till evening. It is expected that within the period of three years the Bhandars will raise their capital to such an extent that they may be able to give all the economic assistance that the villagers might require.

Raising the Standard of Life

The main thing in raising the standard of life of the villagers is, of course, to raise their capacity to produce. It is equally important that along with the rise in production its even distribution is also ensured. For the purpose of raising the quantity of production, the first essential was to supply

the means of production to all the villagers. We have, therefore, undertaken to give pairs of bullocks and necessary agricultural implements to villagers. So far Rs. 20,000 have been invested in this work, and it is expected that by the time of the coming crop season some Rs. 1,10,000 will have to be disbursed.

When the land was distributed in Gramdan, it was decided to set apart one-tenth of the land for collective farming. These collective farms will be our demonstration farms. The villagers will cultivate the farm by their Shramdan and the produce of these farms will be collectively owned. Some five to six such farms will be opened this year where 50 students will be trained in ideal farming. Japanese method of rice cultivation will also be taught in these centres.

We received Rs. 2 lakhs from the Central Government by the end of March, 1956. From Government of Orissa aid of the following amounts was also received :

Gandhighar	Rs. 70,200
Pairs of Bullocks	Rs. 26,692-14-6
House Construction	Rs. 5,625
Building up Village Roads	Rs. 4,125
Small irrigation scheme	Rs. 22,500
Total	Rs. 1,32,142-14-6

This sum will be disbursed for the items mentioned. In every centre there will be a community house, called Gandhighar where will be housed the Bhandar of the Gram Sabha. There will also be an arrangement for spinning, weaving and carding. Other village industries will also be established in due course. There will be a school for children and it will also serve as a place for village entertainment. Every Gandhighar will occupy an area of 1,800 sq. ft. and will cost Rs. 3,000.

In addition to the financial aids mentioned above, a sum of about Rs. 5,13,000 has been received from the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board. This amount is to be utilised as under :

1. Carpentry and Blacksmithy, 6 centres aid	Rs. 12,000
2. Community Workshop Sheds, 6 per shed Rs. 8,000 aid	,, 48,000
3- Community Production Centres per centre Rs. 1,000 aid	,, 6,000
4. Construction of six Godowns per shed Rs. 10,000	,, 10,000
5. Bamboo Centres 6 per centre Rs, 3,000 grants	,, 18,000
6. Pottery 6 centres, per centre Rs. 6,000 aid	,, 36,000
7. Fibre and Rope work 6 centres per centre Rs. 1,000 aid	,, 6,000

8. Gud & Khandsari 1 centre aid Rs. 1,000	,,	1,000
9. Three bicycles per Intensive Area Rs. 500 per centre aid	,,	3,000
10. Sundry aid to each centre Rs. 1,000	,,	1,000
11. Gramodyog Godowns 6, each Godown in every Centre Rs. 5,000 loan	,,	30,000
12. For Gud and Khandsari Centres loan	,,	10,000
13. Khadi Godowns – 6 Rs. 15,000 per Godown aid	,,	90,000
14. Spinning Expansion 6,000 Spinning Wheels Rs. 11/– per wheel	,,	66,000
15. Grain Storage, Paddy Collection	,,	1,20,000
Total	Rs.	5,13,000

Since the sanction was obtained for the 4 Intensive Areas in Koraput district, we have started a leather purchasing centre in Ambadola from 1st of February. Some 400 to 500 pieces of hides and skins come in the market per week. The merchants here buy those pieces. We, too, have decided to purchase 100 to 200 pieces per week. These will be sent to the Nalwadi Tannery, for tanning purposes. We may decide to open a tannery here later on. There is much scope for leather work in Balasore district. There are some 300 to 350 families who are doing the work of flaying. The Serva Seva Sangh is thinking of starting a co-operative society in this part of the district. The Khadi Board has been already approached for the sanctioning of 2 flaying centres and one tannery. We have also undertaken to start bee-keeping centres in the above district, for which purpose two bee-keepers have already been appointed.

The Orissa State Government has made over the Industrial school building to the Serva Seva Sangh for opening a workshop for implements. It is a big building occupying an area of 8,000 sq. ft. It was entrusted to the Serva Seva Sangh for repairs in the month of December. Arrangements for electricity are nearing completion. We have already ordered for necessary raw materials and hope to manufacture here some 1,000 Kisan Charkhas by the end of June, and these will be distributed in 40 to 50 centres. The Serva Seva Sangh has invested some 15,000 to 20,000 rupees. The Khadi Board has sanctioned a sum of Rs.12,000 for opening 6 carpentry and blacksmithy centres. Plans are being prepared to start a workshop in Raigada.

Workers

Some 170 workers from Kasturba Trust, Navajeevan Mandal, Bhoodan Samiti and Serva Seva Sangh are employed in these 6 Intensive Areas getting an aggregate salary of Rs. 8,000 per

month. This sum is paid by the Sarva Seva Sangh. Khadi Board has already appointed a director of each centre. Shri Bipin Saxena is already working in an honorary capacity. Taking into account the peculiar conditions in this part, we have decided to pay every worker a sum of Rs. 60 as minimum and Rs. 100 as maximum salary.

Other Activities

Malaria is rampant in this part. The population here also suffers from another disease called 'Yaj'. This is a contagious disease. It is estimated that nearly 10 per cent of the population is infested with this disease. The population covered by the present schemes is nearly 2,00,000 which means that we have to make arrangements for nearly 20,000 people for medical help. At present two doctors and four nurses are working in three or four centres. They are attending nearly 2,000 persons. Some 10 doctors and 25 compounders are required to serve the whole area. The Navajeevan Mandal, Orissa, is paying for doctors and sisters.

Such were the salient facts of Shri Anna Saheb's report on the work in the Bhoodan villages of Orissa.

Conclusions

After Shri Anna Saheb had spoken, the Conference took up the reports of other committees for discussion. These discussions were continued on the 29th of April, and decisions were taken. Shri Jhaverbhai Patel summed up these discussions and conclusions in the following words :

"The conclusions of this Conference are of great practical value from the point of view of achieving clarity of thought and action in executing the scheme. This process of achieving clarity was helped by the experience gained so far by the organisers and by independent observers who have been watching its progress with keen interest. The main conclusion are recorded below.

In the field of village industries the shift of emphasis should be from the extension work to the planning approach. The process of building from below should be started by preparing plans for individual villages so as to cover the entire number of villages in each area during the Second Plan period. In these village plans every family will have a plan to work on. Planning will be based mainly on the utilization of man-power.

Approach and Aim

The planning approach should be adopted with a view to :

a) envolving an occupational pattern based on the rational use of manpower in the village economy with the aid of village industries.

b) achieving the dynamism of planning by raising production with initial help and undertaking further development programmes

through savings with simultaneous rise in consumption standards.

c) achieving full and efficient employment of the working force in the villages mainly on the basis of local self-sufficiency. Employment will tend to be more efficient in terms of greater productivity *per capita* with the transformation of the static economy into a dynamic one.

2. **Method of Work :**

Although the scheme envisages an integrated approach of comprehensive village development, it is better to concentrate attention on selected items such as the following so that concrete results may be achieved :

b) **Village Plan :** Each Area should try to prepare working plans for about 5 villages in the current year in the manner of the plan prepared for Sultanpur. It is of crucial importance that the plans should be got prepared by the Gram Vikas Mandals of the respective villages so that, in the process of preparing the plans, they are educated and the success of the plan is ensured.

b) **Targets :** In addition to the possible targets of employment and production in the planned villages, such targets should be fixed for the rest of the villages in each Area.

c) **Udyog Bhavans** should be started at least in the planned villages in each area.

d) **Shop**: Each Area should organize a shop for stocking raw-materials for village industries as well as for disposing of finished products. These should supply goods in exchange of labour or yarn. It seems advisable that Areas should start their own shops to begin with and hand them over to co-operatives later on.

e) **Workshops :** for manufacturing tools and implements of Khadi and village industries should be started in as many areas as possible.

f) **Antyodaya :** Programmes of Antyodaya should be adopted in the planned villages. These may include building or repairing houses of the poorest families in these villages with the assistance available from the provision made for scheduled Castes and Tribes and providing work through Khadi and village industries.

3. **Precautions:**

There are several danger spots against which precautions should be taken to ensure the even success of the scheme. These may be indicated as follows :—

a) Except in centres where constructive work has been well-established and experienced organisers

capable of taking up the responsibility of executing the full-fledged scheme are available, a system of pre-intensive Areas should be introduced for new centres demanding the allotment of intensive areas. They may be given an outright grant of Rs. 5,000 to cover the establishment charges of the organizer and his assistant and other expenses. The pre-intensive Areas may be given the assistance of the Board available under different industries. These areas may be put on the mailing list for the literature of the Intensive Area Scheme and their organizers may be invited to attend conferences. After judging the progress achieved by them during the trial period of one year, the successful pre-intensive areas may be converted into full-fledged Areas. This system of per-intensive areas will be in the interest of economy and will also help in preparing a large number of suitable areas.

b) Rather than making outright grants as provided in the schemes, Areas should be asked to frame their own budgets on the basis of which grants from out of the provisions for the scheme may be made. This will ensure economy in expenditure and clarity of action on the part of the Areas. It will also provide some tests by which to measure the ratio of expenditure to achievements. After gaining experience of working the scheme on the basis of budgets, its present provisions may be changed later on.

c) Of the field staff 3 persons should be earmarked for village planning, 4 for khadi and 4 for village industries. Each person should receive training in his subject and be made responsible for preparing and fulfilling targets in his industry.

d) The number of community production centres may be raised and if necessary, funds for the godowns diverted to this purpose.

e) Proper statistics and records of the progress of the scheme should be maintained in a show-room in each area so that evaluation of the scheme becomes possible at every stage.

4. Industry Organizers:

There should be one Central Assistant Organizer appointed under the scheme for each of the main industries of the Board who would be responsible for guiding and assisting intensive areas in developing their respective industries.

5. Committees :

The following committees should be constituted for the guidance of the Areas in bringing about a more orderly progress of the scheme :

a) **Budget Committee**

Function: To consider targets and expenditure proposals for each Area.

Members: 1. Shri Manubhai Patel (Convenor)
2. Shri L. R. Chichghare
3. Shri Baburao Tyagi
4. Shri Gopaldass Dalal and
5. Shri Bhimsen Vedalankar.

b) **Village Planning Committee :**

Function : To guide and assist Areas in preparing Village plans.

Members : 1. Shri Nadkarni (Convenor)
2. Shri Manohar Dixit
3. Shri Mukundbhai Trivedi and
4. Shri Satyanathan.

c) **Conference and Camps Committee :**

Function : To organize half-yearly and annual conferences of organizers, regional conferences of workers and camps of representatives of Gram Vikas Mandals.

Members : 1. Shri Vithal Patwardhan (Convenor)
2. Shri Vimal Shah and
3. Shri Janardanan Pillai

d) **Evaluation Committee** :

The Board should appoint an Evaluation Committee for judging the progress of the schemes from time to time.

Summing Up

The Conference thus concluded its deliberations.

Looking back at the four days of discussions and deliberations both in the Committees and in the open conference, one got the idea that a year's working of the Intensive Area Scheme had brought a sense of realism among the workers who seem to be impelled with a feeling of urgency. Practical problems that were posed for the consideration of the Conference raised several administrative and organizational questions. Workers from the different Areas got an opportunity to compare notes and exchange their experiences with one another. This not only provided for a better clarification of problems and tasks, but also facilitated a greater unity of approach and method.

One omission however, was that, unlike the Ajagara Conference of the previous year, the Sultanpur Plan had not been prepared and placed before the Conference for detailed discussion. The facts of the Sultanpur Survey and the Plan based on the conclusions of the survey would certainly have invested the deliberations with concretised ideas. For Ajagara the Raiyan Plan had been out in minute details. A special Committee went into all the aspects of that Plan and submitted its report to the open Conference for consideration. It was expected then that the Raiyan Plan

would be a pilot plan and similar lines of activities would be undertaken in all the Intensive Areas. One had expected a report on this aspect of the previous year's decisions. There was neither an assessment of the Raiyan Plan itself, nor a report indicating the experiences gained as a result of the application of the broad conclusions of that Plan in other villages of the Ajagara area itself. Probably it was too early to carry out an evaluation survey and assess the exact impact of the Plan in practice on Raiyan village. Even such broad facts as the preliminary survey had brought out were not placed before the Conference. Such facts read along with the Sultanpur Survey and Plan would have facilitated an evolution of a workable experimental plan which could be tried in extension and pre-plan villages. It is to be hoped that, when the third annual conference of the Intensive Area Workers and Organisers meets next year, this omission will be rectified.

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NEWS AND NOTES

Delhi Bhavan Makes Rapid Progress

BY : *REPORTER*

On 13th April the Khadi Gramodyog Bhavan of the All India Khadi & Village Industries Board in New Delhi completed the first year of its inauguration. As in the case of the Bombay Bhavan, in Delhi too, there was at the initial stages the apprehension that the starting of this Bhavan would affect the sales of the older Khadi Bhandar in the city. The experience of the last 11 months of the working of the Delhi Bhavan, however, has, as in the case of Bombay, not only dispelled these apprehensions but has enhanced the sales of Khadi and products of village industries in all the sales bhandars.

Shri Ramnath Tandon, Manager of the Delhi Bhavan presented at the annual function, at which the prime Minister and Minister for Production were present, the annual report of the working of the Bhavan. The report, among other things, said that the retail sales amounted to Rs. 14,55,410-4-6 and the wholesale transactions amounted to Rs. 2,78, 404-9-6, thus showing a total turn over in the course of the last 11 months of Rs. 17,33,814-14-3.

The progress of the Bhavan could be gauged from the following figures of monthly sales since its inception:

April '55	Rs.	62,762-0-9*
May '55	Rs.	59,475-13-6
June '55	Rs.	45,049- 7-6
July '55	Rs.	45,881-14-0
August '55	Rs.	56,923-13-3
Sept. '55	Rs.	1,76,335-13-6
October '55	Rs.	1,08,492- 1-3
November '55	Rs.	1,75,345-13-9
December '55	Rs.	2,06,069- 7-0
January '56	Rs.	1,04,340-15-9
February '56	Rs.	2,01,271-15-3
March '56	Rs.	59,724-3-6§
	Rs.	13,01,673-7-0

Shopping Centre

A feature of the Bhavan, Shri Tandon pointed out, was that it had become a very popular shopping centre in the Indian Capital and attracted foreign tourists and visitors who showed keen interest in the varieties and designs displayed in it. Several varieties of Khadi products have been exported to foreign countries against indents placed by these tourists and visitors. In fact 80 per cent of the customers who purchased Khadi from the Bhavan during the year, were

*The figure represents the sales in the Bhandar since 13th of April, 1955, the day on which it was inaugurated.

§This figure represents the sales effected up to the 15th of March 1956.

those who never wore Khadi before. In other words, the Bhavan has attracted new customers and thus opened out for Khadi and products of village industries and crafts a new market and custom.

To mark the completion of one year of its operations the Bhavan had invited members of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board and others interested in its work for a "get-together" annual function. The chief guest on the occasion was Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India. Shri Vaikunth L. Mehta, Chairman of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board, welcomed the Prime Minister and said:

"The Khadi-Gramodyog Bhavan, to celebrate the first birthday of which we have assembled here today, has a significance because it subserves the cause of people's prosperity. It is our great and good fortune that on this auspicious occasion, we have in our midst, Shri Jawaharlalji whose first thought, and the last, is the removal of the poverty of our people, both moral and material. We are indeed extremely grateful to him for having spared time not only to go round the Bhavan, but to be with us a little while more and to address the workers of the Bhavan, its well-wishers, sympathisers and other friends who have gathered together at this somewhat informal celebrations."

Their Encouragement

Shri Mehta referred to the working of the Bhavan and drew attention to its progress during the brief period of eleven months. "That record speaks for itself; but I would be failing in my duty if I did not convey my Board's feelings of gratitude to the people of Delhi as also the visitors for the very warm welcome that they have accorded to this enterprise of ours. It is their understanding and unfailing support which we value even more than the growing figures of daily sales.

To win and to retain for long the goodwill of the customer, be he or she a habitual wearer of Khadi, is an art. Apparently, judging by the success they have achieved, the staff attached to the Bhavan—women as well as men,—have acquired proficiency in that art for which they deserve congratulations. Even before these large-sized Emporia were started, Khadi Bhandars in some parts of the country used to engage the services of women. The general experience has been that the sales-women possess certain qualities which count a great deal in developing salesmanship."

Growing Interest

"The first of these large-sized Emporia was established in Bombay in July, 1954. Next came this Bhavan. Both these came into existence because of the generous financial assistance that was vouchsafed by the Central Government through the intermediary of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board. It is an interesting development that several State Governments have now induced themselves to assist in the opening of such Emporia in their Capital Cities and of smaller Bhandars in other

towns and cities. The first of these Emporia started under the auspices of a State Government was at Patna, its inauguration having taken place early in February this year at the hands of the Chief Minister of Bihar. Today, almost at this very time, the Congress President is opening a Khadi-Gramodyog Bhavan at Rajkot in Saurashtra. I may add that similar Bhavans are proposed to be started in Calcutta, Madras, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Bhopal, Gwalior and Bhuj.

"The All India Khadi and Village Industries Board attaches considerable importance to this part of its propramme because with the growth of Khadi production, wider markets have to be sought for the sale of Khadi. Admittedly, Khadi cloth is costlier than mill cloth. Hence though it is produced in rural areas, it commands a limited market there.

"The conditions of our economy being what they are, by and large, the purchasing power of the rural population is poor. That purchasing power is there in towns and cities. It is those with the needful purchasing power who appreciate the significance of this cent percent Swadeshi cloth in our social economy, that we hope to attract through the Bhavans everywhere. We wish to see the Bhandars conducted on efficient lines, giving good service to the customers and free from any element of profit-making."

The Ambar Charkha

Shri Mehta then referred to the efforts now being made to expand Khadi production, which had been facilitated by the evolution of the Ambar Charkha. He said:

"We are, I believe, on the verge of a revolution in the production of Khadi, thanks to the invention of the Ambar Charkha. It satisfies all the tests Mahatma Gandhi prescribed for an improved spinning wheel suitable for mass production on a decentralised scale. We shall have yarn of better quality. The daily output will be larger and the spinners will be enabled to earn more than at present. In consequence, Khadi will not only be cheaper, but more durable and satisfactory to the tastes of customers, especially women. Let us hope that this revolution in the decentralised production of an essential consumers commodity will lead to the greater well-being, moral and material of the millions who dwell in our villages.

Nehru's Speech

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru who was shown round the Bhavan, evinced keen interest in several of the new designs and patterns in Khadi displayed there and made minute enquiries about the artisans engaged in such exquisite production and the places where they were produced. At the request of Shri Vaikunth Mehta, Shri Nehru addressed the gathering.

He expressed his appreciation of the progress made in Khadi production and development of new designs and patterns which had enhanced the appeal of Khadi among people of

diverse tastes. He had no doubt that Khadi production was a desirable activity and would continue to expand.

The Price Factor

Shri Nehru said that Khadi was still a costly article and unless its prices were brought down its sales would be limited. The Governmet of India was at present providing facilities for expansion of Khadi work in the country and subsidised the prices of Khadi cloth. Ultimately, however, Khadi would have to stand on its own legs and no Government would be able to continue paying large subsidies indefinitely. It was, therefore, necessary to find out means of economic production. He knew that attempts were being made in that direction, and welcomed the emergence of the Ambar Charkha. "Ambar Charkha" he said, "has given a glimpse in to the future of the economics of Khadi, though it has not provided a complete answer. Certain improvements in the Charkha have already been made and there is room for further improvement. It is possible that the Ambar Charkha might bring about a revolution in Khadi and handloom industries."

New Techniques

Whatever be these possibilities, much depended on the cost factor. If the yarn produced on the Ambar Charkha was cheap and strong, weavers could be won over to using it. If the Ambar Charkha yarn was satisfactory and cheap it would also bring down the price of Khadi, which was necessary for its propagation. But it was necessary that the Ambar Charkha should not only be tried out by experts, but by those who were going to employ it and use its yarn. "We must be certain that we are taking the right step, otherwise the reactions will be harmful."

Proceeding Shri Nehru referred to the technological improvements that were taken place in the world and that India could not shut her eyes to it. It was, of course, a problem to determine how much improvement was possible in the Ambar Charkha, and it was a matter which should be closely examined.

Shri Nehru expressed appreciation of the way the Bhavan had developed during the space of hardly one year.

KHANDSARI PRODUCTION

A Demonstration Party attached to the Central Gur-Khandsari Organisation of All India Khadi and Village Industries Board at Kanpur has been on a tour of Saurashtra. The party gave demonstrations in the manufacture of Khandsari at the Babapur Sarvodaya Ashram in Amreli District. A large number of farmers from villages around Babapur gathered to witness the demonstrations. They evinced keen interest in the processes of converting *raab* into Khandsari sugar.

The Khandsari industry has been started in this region with the aid given by the Bombay Village Industries Board and the Demonstration Party was invited from Kanpur to demonstrate the

improved method of manufacturing jaggery and the production of Khandsari sugar. The party halted in Kodinar for a number of days and gave technical guidance to the farmers in the improved methods. A centrifugal machine has been installed in Babapur and good quality Khandsari is now being manufactured.

Before the Kanpur Party came, the area had a Gur industry. But the quality of Gur produced was inferior and black in colour. The general impression was that this was due to inferior quality of the sugar-cane. This was disproved by the Khadi Board's Kanpur Squad. Gur produced from the juice of the same sugar cane by the improved method, was as white as Kolhapur jaggery. The Khandsari prepared was as white as the mill-made sugar.

For the manufacture of Khandsari, Raab was prepared and poured in earthen pots. Instead of preserving this Raab for fifteen or twenty days as has been the practice here, good quality Khandsari was manufactured on the third day. One maund of Khandsari was prepared out of two and a half maunds of Raab and gur was manufactured out of the balance of Raab. The advantage of taking to Khandsari manufacture in place of gur, may be seen from the following statement :

Account of two and half maunds of Raab

Income from Production		Expenditure	
Rs. 17- 0-0	Price of one maund of Khandsari	Rs. 10- 0-0	Cost of $2\frac{1}{2}$ maunds of jaggery at market rates.
Rs. 5- 0-0	Price of one and quarter of Raska Gur (Juicy jaggery)	Rs. 0- 5-0	Cost of carbon.
		Rs. 1- 7-0	Expenditure on purchase of miscellaneous articles, labour etc.
Rs. 22- 0-0	Total Income	Rs. 11-12-0	Total Expenditure

The statement shows that the sugar-cane cultivator can earn nearly 100 per cent more by taking to Khandsari production instead of gur manufacture.

The demonstrations by the Kanpur Party showed that with the aid of ten centrifugal machine one maund of Khandsari can be produced in ten minutes. The farmers clearly saw the advantage of this method. Those of them who grow sugarcane crops and ply kolhus, have been attracted towards this method and they now think in terms of preparing Khandsari for their personal use.

Forty maunds of Khandsari will be manufactured in the Sarvodaya Ashram and other cultivators will produce 40 to 50 maunds from the present produce of sugarcane. People are quite enthusiastic about this.

METALWARE EXHIBITION

On Friday, the 23rd March, Shri Ananthasayanam Iyengar, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, declared open in New Delhi a fine exhibition of metalware of all types, designs and descriptions. Srimati Kamaladevi Chattopadhya in requesting Shri Iyengar to declare the exhibition open, surveyed the position of the metalware industry in the country and called for concerted efforts to rescue it from the inroads of the new cheap wares turned out by machanised large-scale factories. She referred to the variety of articles displayed in the exhibition and the efforts that the Handicrafts Board was making to develop the metalware crafts in the different parts of the country.

Shri Iyengar, in declaring the exhibition open, took the audience back to many centuries and vividly described the dexterity, skill, imagination and ingenuity of the artisans who turned out a variety of metalware articles of utility and beauty. His references to the fabrication of alloys of different metals as in the bell-metal wares and the "panch-patrams" were informative and instructive. The delicate workmanship of the village goldsmiths and sculptors had captivated man's imagination. What they produced was full of life. "That is the cultural heritage which we are fast losing", he declared. He said that every effort should be made to preserve this heritage and to promote and develop its expression.

Metalware is among the few handicrafts of India which has stood the test and tempests of time. Incursions of foreign economic interests in our country did deal it a heavy below, but could not throw it out of existence as was the case with the universal homecrafts of hand-spinning, hand-weaving, paper-making, pottery and others like these. The Metalware industry could survive because it was intertwined with the very life and existence of the people.

Nevertheless the advent of industrialisation and mass production of cheap substitutes is fast taking its toll and has adversely affected the quantum of production, the design and form and the quality of workmanship in Indian metalware. The Handicrafts Board has intervened not a day too soon to revitalise this industry and restore to it the popularity it has enjoyed among all classes of people.

Among the thirty exhibitions organised in various cities of the world in which the All India Handicrafts Board participated, metalware has enjoyed a place of prestige. It is now an important item for export. In this exhibition the Board had collected rare and choice pieces of metalware articles for display from 15 States. Exquisite pieces in bronze, bell-metal, copper, brass, silver and wrought iron were on view. There were the encrusted figures in pure silver or gold on copper and brass from Tanjore, delicate silver filigree work of Orissa, fine work of Bidri from Bidar in Hyderabad, which were among the major attractions in the exhibition.

Besides these, polished brassware with engraving and enamel work in many varieties and shapes from Jaipur, Kashmir, Moradabad, and Benaras, were also there. Apart from articles of daily household use, these included articles of high artistic merit.

The Handicrafts Board proposes to carry this Metalware Exhibition to the different parts of the country through its mobile Exhibition Unit.

A tour round the exhibition revealed the wealth of talent that still exists among our craftsmen and brought home to the discerning visitor that the rich and colourful cultural heritage of the country is being preserved by the poor neglected artisan in the villages. The initiative and guiding genious of the Handicrafts Board could be seen in the new tones introduced in the designing and decoration. In adaptations care has been taken to see that there is no departure from the original in technique and finish. The exhibition was a delightful experience and those who saw it would like to see it over again.

UDYOG BHAVAN AT RAJ BHAVAN

A select gathering of men and women participated in the first annual celebrations on Friday (April 20) of the Udyog Bhavan in the Raj Bhavan, Bombay. The gathering was more a meeting of friends than a formal celebration. To mark the occasion an entertainment programme had been arranged at the "Jal Nayak" at night. Dr. Harekrushna Mahtab, Governor of Bombay, acted as the Chief host on the occasion.

Below is a brief report of the working of the Bhavan:

Soon after his assumption of office as Governor of Bombay Dr. Harekrushna Mahtab opened, on April 8, 1956, the Udyog Bhavan in one of the buildings in the Raj Bhavan with a view to providing part-time employment to the families of the workers in Raj Bhavan. The All India Khadi and Village Industries Board had appointed the Committee with Dr. Mahtab as President and Shri Vaikunth L. Mehta and Shri R. S. Hukerikar as members, to manage the affairs of the Udyog Bhavan.

Gainful part-time employment is provided at the Bhavan to about 70 women who are trained in spinning, tailoring, doll-making, embroidery, and in the culinary arts. Quality Masala and pickles are prepared by the workers. The Udyog Bhavan also undertakes the supply of pin-cushions, batwas, lamp-shades etc. The embroidery work of the workers is of a very high quality and workmanship. Recently, the Bhavan added to its activities the supply of shoes to the Indian Airways.

In the second year, the Udyog Bhavan will undertake the tailoring of large number of uniforms, orders for which have already been received. Thus, within certain limits, the Udyog Bhavan tries to undertake almost any kind of

work which can be done with reasonable skill and manual labour.

During the first year, Rs. 3,740 were distributed as wages among the workers. Some families have earned a sum of Rs. 20 per month, in their spare time, while others have received Rs. 6 and Rs. 8 per month as additional income.

WOOL CENTRE IN KHERWADI

"Work is essential to human life apart from its money value, for work is the only abiding joy in life. There are two things necessary to enjoy life in the higher sense, (1) living in an atmosphere of good human fellowship, and (2) opportunity of filling every moment of life with work that interests and grips one. If one gets these two things, there is nothing more that life can offer", said Dr. John Matthai, Vice Chancellor of the Bombay University declaring open the Wool Work Centre in the Kherwadi Parishramalaya on the 12th April.

Dr. Matthai who was accompanied by Srimati Achamma Matthai, was received by a guard of honour. The proceedings began with a prayer and welcome song by the school children of Kherwadi. These were followed by a dramatic dialogue on the problem of failed graduates. The dialogue was as amusing as it was thought-provoking.

Diwan Bahadur Jhaveri, the President of the Kherwadi Social Welfare Association, welcomed Dr. and Srimathi Matthai and the other guests. He gave a brief history of the origin of Kherwadi and work being done there. He said that 28 years ago Shri B. G. Kher had come across a colony of tanners during one of his morning walks and since then he had been working in this colony and tackling various problems connected with the social and economic welfare of its residents. About a year and a half ago, Shri Kher conceived the idea of building a community centre known as Parishramalaya which had been doing very good work. Now the "Urna Ghar" to house the school of wool spinning and weaving was being added to its activities.

Shri V. L. Mehta gave information about various industries to which the Association had given attention. One of the objects of the Association was to provide productive and remunerative employment to unemployed or under-employed persons, as the main difficulty of such persons is lack of opportunity to work. The first industry to be started in the Parishramalaya was production of Khadi with yarn spun locally as far as possible. A fair number of women had learnt spinning and the yarn was woven into cloth. The second industry was making soap out of non-edible oils. The third was the wool industry which was suited to the locality in view of the nearness of the Bandra slaughter house. The Government of Bombay were induced to select this as the venue of the training centre in this cottage industry. It was proposed now to add a match unit and also a paper unit.

The Parishramalaya

Shri B. G. Kher said that idea of Parishramalaya was to tackle the problem of rural unemployment. The vast majority of our population lived in villages and hill and forest areas, and to bring about the social reconstruction of India the problem of these people should be tackled properly. He referred to Shri V. V. Giri's statement regarding a village survey in Uttar Pradesh which disclosed that out of 8 hours per day only 2 hours and 40 minutes were utilised in employment; also that men were employed only for 7 months and women for 4 months. The employment to be provided for all such under-employed or unemployed persons should satisfy three conditions :

(1) the employment should be in the neighbourhood and not far away ;

(2) the labour must not be highly skilled, and

(3) it should bring a fair addition to the income.

He also stressed the intrinsic value of work apart from its product. "Parishramalaya is, therefore, a necessity in every 5 or 10 villages."

When he was in the United Kingdom he noticed how the problem of villages was tackled by the R. C. C. (Rural Community Centre) and R. L. C. (Rural Life Conference). "We must have a similar movement in India, and whatever effort Government is making to improve the economic condition of the people must be supplemented by the people in villages." Parishramalaya and Rural Life Conference are the two movements essential for the regeneration of India.

Life and work

Dr. John Matthai said that he listened to the previous speeches with great interest, as he had given some thought to the problems referred to. He agreed entirely with Shri Kher that work was essential to human life apart from its money value and referred to the great importance of work as the only abiding joy in life. The logic of his thinking drove him to the position that two things were necessary to enjoy life in the higher sense :

(1) living in an atmosphere of good human fellowship, and

(2) opportunity of filling every moment of life with work that interests and grips one.

"If one gets these two things, there is nothing more that life can offer. Most of Mahatma Gandhi's fellow-workers have been able to chalk out a new way of life which is one of the most noticeable things in India". As an objective worker he had noticed that, in his movement, Mahatma Gandhi chose his followers from quite unexpected quarters to work in most obscure areas or sections of our national life, and then, if they were successful there, he asked them to fill the biggest places in Government and

administration. And it was most remarkable that these people had proved admirable successes in the highest departments of the country's affairs. This was a marvellous tribute to the judgment of the Father of the nation.

The Only Way

Continuing, Dr. Matthai said that the country's progress should be in terms of the lives and progress of people in villaages. This is the whole philosophy of the Parishramalaya, the validity of which none can dispute". When he first heard Shri Vaikunth Mehta on the value of village industries, he did so with some amount of scepticism but, on further discussion, he realised their utility. So in spite of his earlier scepticism about the movement, having listened to Shri Vaikunth Mehta and Shri Kher and watched the work they were doing, he had come round to the view that there was a good deal to be said for the movement. The whole future of rural India depended on the success of this movement.

There was, however, the point to be considered how far village industries could be run on a stable, efficient and continued basis without improvement in the methods of production. One had at one time or other to consider improvements, but, in introducing them, the overheads should not be increased thus sending up prices, nor should employment be reduced or restricted. One would probably find a basis for striking the happy medium, as in the case of the Ambar Charkha. Shri Kher was perfectly right in his view that problems of rural areas were of very great importance to the country and strenuous efforts should therefore, be made in regard to these problems.

Striking a personal note, Dr. Matthai said that he had a little ancestral farmhouse, and a nostalgic feeling somewhere inside him prompted him to go back to that farmhouse and organise activities round it on some such lines as the work that was being done here. It gave him not only pleasure to come and perform the opening ceremony that day, but it was a source of inspiration and guidance to him. One felt humble in the presence of people who devoted their lives to such noble work.

After the opening ceremony of "Urna Ghar" was performed, Prof. V. G. Rao thanked Dr. John Matthai and the other guests.

After the singing of Vande Mataram, the gathering dispersed.

ATTRACTIVE SURAT SHOW

[*By* OBSERVER]

The Surat Gymkhana ground which had been converted into a sprawling Parishramalaya or work centre in typical village setting, attracted a sea of humanity on the evening of the 6th April when Shri U. N. Dhebar, the Congress

President, declared the regional Khadi and Gramodyog Exhibition open. An area of about 25,000 sq. feet was covered by numerous little workshops where village artisans were engaged in the demonstration of their tools and methods of work.

Dhebar's Speech

Shri Dhebar spoke on the role of Khadi and village industries in the solution of the problem of unemployment in the country and in the scheme of building a prosperous India. He said the Exhibition was the first of its kind to be held in Gujarat and presented to the people an idea of the resurgence that was coming over the rural population. India's progress was bound up with the prosperity of the millions living in the villages, for, India lived in her villages. Whatever steps might be taken by the State to promote economic development, the basic question would still be that of land, of Khadi and of village industries. These were the basic factors in the life of nearly 82 per cent of the population of this country. Neglect of any one of these would *ipso facto* lead to de-generation and disintegration of village life. Looked at from the point of view of the economic and social well-being of so vast a number of our people, development of Khadi and village industries had a deep significance for the progress of the nation. This Exhibition, said Shri Dhebar, had been arranged as an attempt to bring before the people outside rural areas the creative and artistic faculties of village craftsmen and was an effort to popularise their products outside rural areas.

Shri Dhebar who was taken round the Exhibition, evinced great interest in the different processes that were being demonstrated in the different sections. He expressed his appreciation of the manner in which the Exhibition had been arranged and thought that the practical demonstrations would have great educative value for the people of Surat.

The Exhibition

The exhibition, although organised on a regional scale, was conceived on an All India pattern. Artisans from all over India were there to demonstrate their exquisite skills and delicate workmanship. From Assam, Bihar, Madras, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab, they had come and set up their own workshops where they displayed the processes they employed in the manufacture of their varied products. These demonstrations represented practically all the major village industries handled by the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board. Highly skilled craftsmen were there to show that the world-famed muslins of old were no dream fabrics. Spinning and weaving of 300 count Bihar muslins were on demonstration. The Surat Zari and Silk Centre put up a big show, giving practical demonstration of the most intricate but fascinating zari work and sari weaving.

In village industries, the Gur and

Khandsari section had arranged the most expansive show. There were also the artisans making glass bangles, and they probably attracted the biggest crowds. Going round the Exhibition one could instinctively sense the pulsation of the new life coming into our villages following development and executed by devoted village workers. Among the artisans themselves there was an atmosphere of cheer and returning confidence. There was a glow now in their sunken eyes—the glow of the dawn of a new life of hope. One could see their pride in their work and in what they produced. They seemed to say : "Give us the chance; We shall not fail."

But what is the proof ? For proof one had only to take a close look at the demonstrations they had put up. At work with their tools and implements processing clumsy unimpressive raw material into fine finished articles of daily use, they seemed to live every word of the saying that " the joy of life lies on the work we do ". In section after section could be seen the improvements that are being effected in their tools and techniques and the avidity with which they imbibed the new adjustments and attachments.

The Rural Touch

The construction and lay-out of the Exhibition and the archways and decorations had a peculiar rural touch. They combined artistry with elegance. The construction material used was wholly bamboo. The Exhibition layout presented the appearance of a sprawling village Parishramalaya or work centre with a "Pavilion in Perspectives" in the centre. This pavilion was of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board and provided visual education on what the villages had suffered, how they were re-building a new life and what they were capable of achieving, given the operative conditions and policy aids.

The Exhibition had six circular pavilions, each one of them 60 feet in diameter. They were :

1. **"Nai Talim Bhavan"** showing dozens of tiny tools at work and at play—learning and working while playing.
2. **"Safai Mandap"** or a pavilion showing simple ways of village sanitation.
3. **"Bapu Bhavan"** showed in photographs, showcards and some sketches, the life and work of Gandhiji and Vinoba.
4. **"Gramodoyog Bhavan"** had some charts, showcards and models of some of the village industries.
5. **"Khadi Bhavan"** had the best in Khadi from practically every region. It was a nicely decorated pavilion.
6. **"Khadi-Gramodyog Mandap"** A pavilion organized directly by the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board.

The Board's Pavilion

The All India Khadi and Village Industries pavilion presented in attractive charts the Second Five Year Plan of the All India Board which embraced eleven major village industries, apart from Khadi. Here the Ambar Charkha was on display and was the focal point of popular attraction. At the entrance to the pavilion was a fascinating story in pictures of the origin of cloth, its impact on society, its progress in India and its decline. There was the story of Gandhiji with his message of the work now being organised by the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board.

Here are some other attractions of the pavilion :

1. 12 large size (4 x 6 feet) Oil painted panels, depicting various village industries in decorative art.
2. The prize winning plaster-cast life size statue of Mahatma Gandhi.
3. 700 year old Kashmir-Jamewar.
4. Ring-Muslin of Dacca-350 counts, the whole taka of which actually seen passing through a ring.
5. A wonderful piece of cloth woven in fine D. T. (Double thread) from Rajasthan.
6. All the literature published by the Board upto date.
7. Fascinating enlarged colour photographs of village pottery in India.

From 6th to 23rd April on which day, the Exhibition closed, day after day, it attracted large numbers of men and women. Village folk from far and near trecked their way to the city to have a view of what other village people were doing to develop their economy.

THE TRICHUR EXHIBITION

[*From A Correspondent*]

Trichur, April 19.

"Lack of employment opportunities has a deleterious effect not only on the material well-being of a people, but on its morale as well. It leads to a decay in the creative urge that is inherent in every human being and makes him dull and inert. In addition to this positive loss, there is the negative aspect. It is that anti-social forces can exercise an evil influence over people who are labouring under a sense of frustration for want of opportunities for work. For building up a stable healthy society, the provision of work for all should rank first in the order of priorities," declared Shri Vaikunth L. Mehta, Chairman of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board, inaugurating a unique Khadi and Village Industries Exhibition in the Model Girls High School here last evening. Shri Mehta who arrived in Trichur by car from Cochin, was

accorded a grand reception at the Exhibition premises by a large and distinguished gathering of men and women.

Shri R. Krishna Iyer, President of the Kerala Khadi and Village Industries Association under whose auspices the exhibition was organised, said that this exhibition was first of its kind to be held in Kerala. He traced the circumstances in which his Association came to be formed in 1953. Prior to the formation of the Association Khadi work in the area used to be carried on by the All Cochin Khadi Trust which came into existence in 1946. The Trust started with a small capital of Rs. 2,000 and a Government grant of Rs. 10,000. At the time the Kerala Khadi and Village Industries Association was formed there were 300 spinners and 40 weavers and the annual production of Khadi was valued at Rs. 30,000. The activities of the Trust improved and took rapid strides with the extension of aid by the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board which advanced to it a loan of Rs. 25,000. The incentive given by the Board soon created an atmosphere favourable for the extension of Khadi work. "The demand for hand-spinning became so great that the Trust was compelled to still further expand its activities." But the rules governing the Trust had placed on it certain limitations which prevented large-scale expansion of Khadi production. To obviate this difficulty and to overcome the limitations, the Kerala Khadi and Village Industries Association was formed early in 1955. The Association took over practically all the activities of the Trust. The Association took advantage of the favourable conditions and began expansion of organization. The Khadi Board extended aids on a liberal scale. A loan of Rs. 1,50,000 was given to the Association. With such aids the work began to expand. Nearly 5,000 charkhas were distributed during the last two years and the number of spinners increased to 2,500 and that of weavers to 160. The Association started a Khadi Vidyalaya which had arrangements to train 32 workers at a time. Schemes had also been prepared to train 148 weavers. The progress made so far, Shri Krishna Iyer said, could be gauged from the following table :

Figures of Khadi Production, Khadi Sales, Yarn Production and Yarn Consumption. From 1948 to 1956 March

	Khadi Production Sq. Yds.	Value. Rs.	Khadi Sales Rs.	Yarn Purchase Hks.	Yarn consumption. Hks.
1948	10,073	12,624	14,200	43,141	40,897
1949	11,150	13,830	12,478	43,894	43,412
1950	15,736	20,611	19,959	70,287	61,281
1951	14,502	22,181	25,838	78,590	56,292
1952	18,411	30,006	22,562	58,323	71,378
1953	21,289	34,189	33,665	91,966	82,665
1954	32,492	52,551	63,116	1,79,292	1,25,925
1955	52,957	88,779	1,01,884	3,75,656	2,08,994
1956 (3 months)	17,810	29,025	30,304	96,655	66,163
Total	1,94,420	3,03,796	3,24,006	10,37,804	7,57,007

He hoped that soon production would increase from 10,000 per month at present to over double that amount. Among the other industries taken up by the Association, Shri Iyer made special reference to the Cottage Match industry. "The Association has recently taken up organization of cottage match industry with bamboo splints and card-board veneers. The Khadi Board has sanctioned 15 factories to the Association of which one has already started production. Arrangements for starting production in the remaining 14 factories have been completed and they will go into production the day the licences are obtained."

Inaugurating the Exhibition Shri Vaikunth Mehta said:

The Inaugural Address.

Being not conversant with the economy of this part of India, I am hardly in a position to offer any worthwhile suggestions on the specific economic problems which face Kerala, in the solution of which industries such as those represented at this exhibition may be expected to be helpful. I would however, claim that the programme for the development of Khadi and other village industries of which you have some visual demonstration provided at the exhibition, does provide a line of action which, if pursued systematically and vigorously, may satisfy even the peculiar conditions of the economy of Kerala.

Although the industries represented at the Exhibition are occasionally

described as traditional industries, the demonstrations that have been arranged will show that they need not necessarily be carried on in the traditional manner. Almost in every section can be seen the improvements that have been effected in the tools and processes of production. Artisans and cottage workers, following the traditional methods, can study these new methods and adopt them with the financial aids now available through the various all-India Boards and by the State Governments. In Travancore - Cochin this process of adjustment should be facilitated, I presume, by the fact that, compared to other parts of India, there is a highly literate population of both agriculturists and artisans.

No Mechanisation

The principal among the existing industries in Travancore-Cochin is connected with coir. The formation of a Statutory Board for the expansion and improvement of this industry is indicative of the importance now attached to the industry in the economy of the country as a whole. Plans for development prepared by the Board have been incorporated in the Draft Outline of the Second Five Year Plan more or less in accordance with the recommendations of the Village and Small-Scale Industries Committee. The financial provision is of the order of Rs. 1 crore of which nearly three quarters of a crore fall to the share of this State. There is, however, just one observation, that I should like to offer about their plans. No proposal for mechanisation should find favour if its net effect is to reduce the volume of existing employment in the industry.

In fact, in the conditions of acute unemployment that prevail, that should be the general policy to be pursued in respect of schemes of industrialization which impinge upon the sphere of traditional village industries. In that category I would include processing industries such as the conversion of paddy into rice or oil seeds into edible oil. As the Karve Committee recommended, there should be no further expansion in the capacity of these industries. That recommendation has particular significance in Travancore-Cochin in respect of rice milling.

Splendid Response

Although not a cotton growing area, this part of the country did not fail to respond to Mahatma Gandhi's adjuration to the nation to make the production of Khadi a universal cottage industry. I understand that the Khadi production and sales centres in Kerala number over a hundred and more are springing up in response to the recent attempts to extend this effort at providing wider opportunities for employment through the handspinning and handloom weaving industries. Low though the earnings from hand-spinning may be, they are not a negligible contribution to the family income in areas where unemployment is acute and under-employment is perennial.

The Charkha as an instrument of production underwent changes during the last four decades since Gandhiji brought about its revival. But now we have, fortunately, a new appliance which represents a veritable transformation in the art of hand-spinning. The Ambar Charkha, originally designed by a humble artisan resident in the District of Tirunelveli on your borders can produce yarn which has better tensile strength, is more even and is more acceptable to the weaver than ordinary handspun yarn. As productivity is higher, while it is possible to pay higher wages, costs of production can be brought down appreciably. I have the feeling that when the Ambar Charkha is introduced in these parts, it will be taken to with avidity by the educated proletariat of Kerala who will find it, if the production is properly organized, a useful means of satisfying their desire for a better standard of living.

Perils of Unemployment

Lack of employment opportunities has a deleterious effect not only on the material well-being of a people but on its morale as well. It leads to a decay in the creative urge that is inherent in every human being and makes him dull and inert. In addition to this positive loss, there is the negative aspect. It is that anti-social forces can exercise an evil influence over people who are labouring under a sense of frustration for want of opportunities for work. For building up a stable healthy society, the provision of work for all should rank first in the order of priorities.

Not that the material aspect is negligible. Despite the growth of large-scale industries in recent time, mainly in response to the Swadeshi spirit of the people, the tariff-protection granted by the State and the economic aftermath of the two world wars which left India practically unscathed, there has been no striking increase in the numbers employed in these industries or any reduction in the growth of unemployment. On the contrary, the pace of the growth has remained unaffected and the number of the unemployed and the underemployed continued to rise.

In consequence we find that, while the total national income has gone up and the per capita income shows some increase the numbers who stand on income levels below the low average, are vast and their earnings remain so poor that they have not enough to satisfy the barest of human needs. On the whole, disparities in income and wealth tend under this system to widen and not to get reduced. It is possible to remedy this state of things only if we give a new turn to our industrial development and consider productive employment as more important than production. How that task can be essayed is what, I believe, this Exhibition will demonstrate to the people of Kerala".

Shri Mehta was then shown round the exhibition, a distinguishing feature of which was the absence of the usual sales stalls and the importance given to

the demonstration of processes involved in the making of Village products. Practically all the industries under the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board were covered. In addition there were local industries like screw-pine, mat manufacture, palm products and palm leaf products, metal-work and the like. The demonstration of cotton and coir spinning and weaving put up by the State jail units deserves special mention. The large numbers of men and women drawn from all walks of life who thronged the Exhibition, evinced keen interest in the various demonstrations and made many inquiries about the different industries. The exhibition has awakened new interest in Village industries and judging from the popularity of the Ambar Charkha Section, it can be said that it will be accepted with avidity by the people.

Visit to Centres

The next day (19th April), Shri Mehta, accompanied by Shri R. Krishna Iyer and other workers, visited a few Khadi Production centres. Shri Mehta was agreeably surprised to find young girls skilfully manipulating handlooms. He was told that these girls were drawn from working class and lower middle class families, and represented all communities. They were admitted as apprentices and, after a period of training when they had attained proficiency, they were suupplied with the handlooms on which they continued to work and earn a living.

Shri Mehta was impressed with their skill and the dexterity with which they worked and said that this was a new experience to him. He had not come across large numbers of women taking to the handlooms. The girls whom he saw before him seemed to like the work and showed great intelligence and application to work. In a country where this spirit and ability existed there should be no difficulty in expanding Khadi production. After seeing the work that was being done in these centres he expressed the view that Kerala would take to the Ambar Charkha with avidity and make the programme a great success.

Puthur which is one of the intensive development areas of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board, was specially included as an important centre for Shri Mehta's visit. There a public meeting was held over which the Bishop of Trichur presided. Shri Mehta spoke of the importance of development of Khadi and other village industries not only as a means for combating the growing unemployment and under-employment in the countryside, but also as an integral part of the programme of national reconstruction. From what little he had seen of the people and the work they were doing in this part of the country, he was full of hope that, in the ambitious programme which the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board was launching, Kerala would play a very important part.

The Bishop of Trichur who welcomed Shri Mehta, also evinced keen interest

in the schemes of the Board. He made minute enquiries and Shri Mehta appeared to have been struck by the spirit of enquiry and sympathetic response of the Bishop.

Aid to Kerala

On his way to the airport at Cochin, he spent some time in Ernakulam where he met the representatives of the press. The pressmen asked several questions regarding the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board and its activities and wanted to know how and what help the Board was extending to Travancore-Cochin.

Shri Mehta explained to them the nature of the aids that the Board extended to registered institutions and co-operative societies and pointed out that, since the Board came into existence and framed programmes of development, several institutions in Kerala had been enabled their activities.

THE KORA GRAMODYOG KENDRA

The tenth annual foundation day of Kora Gramodyog Kendra and the Bombay Suburban District Village Industries Association was celebrated at Kora Kendra, Borivli, on the 19th April. Shri Appasaheb Patwardhan presided.

At the outset, Shri Pranlal Kapadia, Jt. Secretary of the Association, narrated the story of the Kendra, how it started with very small beginnings and how gradually it grew to its present position. He gave a detailed account of the various activities and experiments now being carried out there. All this was possible he said, because of the inspiration and guidance of Shri B. G. Kher.

Shri Kher who followed, recalled the words of Mahatma Gandhi who reminded them that as long as the villages were not uplifted, the country would not prosper. For the uplift of the villages two things were necessary: (1) they should be able to produce wealth from waste and (2) the people should be given employment so that their spare time might not be wasted. These two things could be achieved only through the development of village industries. Keeping this aim in view, scheme for opening Parishramalayas all over the country was being implemented.

Shri R. S. Dhotre, Secretary of Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, addressing the gathering said that though they could give employment to the village population through the village industries with the help of the Government, they would not be able to create in them the desire for self-sufficiency as taught by Gandhiji. In his last days Mahatmaji used to repeat the fact very often that Khadi and Village Industries articles should cease to be articles of trade. The real object of the village industries was to make the villages self-sufficient.

Shri Kedarnath laid emphasis on the inner purity of the individual as well as of institutions carrying on the work of

service of the people. He said that by flawless service a man or an institution rose to higher levels. If, therefore, any one showed them their short-comings, it was their duty to heed them and see that the shortcomings were removed.

Shri V. V. Jerajani, President of the Association, said that ten years ago there was a jungle there and it was turned into a garden. This was the result of the devoted efforts of selfless workers like Shri Pranlalbhai and others. Theirs was no easy job.

Shri Appasaheb Patwardhan, winding up the proceedings, quoted Shri Vinobaji's words that Bhoodan was the weft and village industries were the warp of the village reconstruction movement. He deplored the squalor, the sloth and the slovenliness that characterised Village life at present. The village people did not know what was good for them. They had lost all sense of values. They considered a bullock an asset and the human being as a liability. This was the result of the decay of our village economy and the state of poverty that prevailed. He cited his experiences of his own village and of the many other villages which he visited during his Bhoodan Pada Yatra. The people wanted work and wages. They were willing to work hard and they did work hard. But the wages paid were a mere pittance. It was difficult to get even 8 annas after a whole day's labour. Often they got less. Those who talked about the economics of this and that, forgot that humanity was being starved for want of food. To them an addition of a few annas was welcome. It was in this context that the Ambar Charkha should be considered. The people would take to it with enthusiasm. "Let us think of humanity. Our village people, too, have a right to live, to work and adequate wages. To deny this, was to deny everything we profess."

After Shri M. B. Mehta, Chairman of the Managing Committee, had thanked the chair and other speakers, the function concluded with "Vande Mataram."

A Decade Of Progress

The Bombay Suburban Village Industries Association has been doing a pioneering service in the fields of Khadi, village industries, agriculture and training and research on them for the last ten years. From an humble beginning it has progressed steadily and today it is one of the most outstanding institutions of its kind in India

A few constructive workers of the Bombay Suburban District realized after 1942 movement the importance of Gandhiji's teachings and though of working for the reconstruction and regeneration of the villages in the suburbs of Bombay. These worker started with the service of the people stall holders, customers and visitor to the weekly fair at Marol, a sma suburban village, and socio-economi survey of other small village calle

Kandarpada. This brought them in contact with villagers and their problems and introduced them to village work.

The Bombay Suburban District Village Industries Association was thus formed on 1st June, 1946. This Association was duly registered on 6th July 1946 and among its first members were Shri B. G. Kher, President, Shri Vaikunth L. Mehta, late Shri Chhotubhai Kora, late Shri Naval C. Jerajani and Shri Pranlal Kapadia.

The Association started with the opening of a small Village Industries Bhandar in the building opposite the present Khadi Bhandar at Kalbadevi with a capital of Rs.500. A box of Chappals from Tarvada and a box of hand-made soap from Sahadra in the Punjab were the first stock in trade. Their work gradually expanded and it was felt that a research-cum-training centre should be started some where in the suburbs. An appeal under the signature of Shri B.G. Kher for Rs.15,000 for Bhandar and Rs.10,000 for the Centre brought in a donation of Rs.16,000 and an interest-free loan of Rs. 9764. This helped in opening a Khadi Bhandar at Matunga on 22nd October 1946 and a bullock Ghani was installed at Andheri. By this time the Charkha Sangh had, by a change in its policy, decided to sell Khadi only to spinners. This affected the sales in its Kalbadevi Bhandar which could spare half its space. The Association took up the space to shift its Village Industries Bhandar there. It was also decided to set up a Village Industries Centre at a suitable place. Through the co-operation and encouragement of Shri B.G. Kher, a piece of land measuring 11 acres in the village of Shimpavli near Borivli was secured. An inspired worker, Shri Dattubhai Hattangadi, who was working in the Bhandar at Khar, came to Shimpavli. His indomitable will and untiring labours gave shape to the centre.

Another great soul, Shri Chhotubhai B. Kora, was attracted to this Centre. He decided to devote himself fully to the work of village industries. His energy, devotion and genius soon made him the architect of the Centre. Unfortunately the cruel hand of death snatched him away before the Kendra was fully established. In token of his great services, his colleagues named this Contre, Kora Kendra. Since then the Kendra has progressed. One after the other, different village industries began to be introduced. Carcass recovery work had engaged the attention of the workers for long. And the work of establishing a flaying centre on Village Industry lines was started. The Government of Bombay gave a grant of Rs. 50,000 with which separate buildings for a tannery and a leather workshop were constructed. On 9th March, 1948, Shri B.G. Kher, the then Chief Minister of Bombay, performed the opening ceremony of the Flaying,

Tannery and Oil Ghani Centres. The Balwadi and weaving centres which were constructed under the guidance of late Shri Chhotubhai Kora had also started working with the aid provided by the Kasturba Memorial Fund and the Charkha Sangh installed its weaving centre with eight handlooms. This weaving centre facilitated weaving of yarn spun by the citizens of Bombay. Later the Association took over from the Charkha Sangh their Bhandar at Kalbadevi for sale of Khadi and Village Industries products and opened seven agencies in the suburbs. All these Bhandars and agencies have shown progress.

"Gramodyog Patrika"

The need of an agency to bind all village-industry-minded workers together, and to convey the knowledge and experience of one centre to another was felt. With this purpose, Gramodyog Patrika, an organ of the Association, was started in 1948. Shri Vithaldas V. Jerajani, the Trustee of the Association, who was carrying on his agricultural and social activities of village uplift in Vajreshwari, observed the work of the Association with interest and agreed to devote one day in a week to this centre to guide the workers and to bind them together in an organised group. During this period Shri Balkoba Bhave, brother of Shri Vinoba Bhave, visited Kora Kendra and guided the workers in corporate life.

During the fourth year the activities at the Kendra included agriculture, mainly paddy cultivation. But only a small harvest was reaped. In 1949, Shri Pranlal Kapadia went to Japan and studied the Japanese method of paddy cultivation. On his return, he introduced the Japanese method in Kora Kendra. Acharya Vinoba Bhave visited the Kendra about this time and stayed there for 5 days. The Japanese method produced good results and it was publicised. The Gandhi Nidhi took up the method for wider introduction and the success achieved attracted national attention. This success in agricultural experiments proved to be of nation-wide importance and enthused the workers of the Association to decide that Kora Kendra should be a model centre for self-reliance and self-sufficiency in food, clothing and housing. Cotton (Dev Kapas) began to be grown and nearly 350 cotton plants were planted. These plants provide cotton for spinning to 40 persons in the Kendra.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the President of India visited Kora Kendra in 1950, and expressed his appreciation of its activities. In 1950, the Association received 16 acres of land from the Government of Bombay which facilitated agricultural experiments. Japanese method and implements of agriculture became more popular among the farmers around. The Kendra secured from the Government of Bombay a contract to remove carcasses of dead cattle from the Aarey Milk Colony. This increased the activity of the flaying centre. It was

realised that a dead cattle could fetch, by proper utilisation, an amount of Rs. 75. After taking away the hide, the remnants could be used to generate gas and produce valuable manure from flesh and bone. Experiments on oil ghani brought useful results.

From now on the progress of the Kendra and its activities was rapid. Its Bhandar had now 18 agencies, and it supplied Khadi and Village Industry products to certified Bhandars in the Bombay State. The sale of the Bhandar reached to Rs. 9,43,000 in Khadi and Rs. 1,23,000 in village industries products. Besides this, the agencies did a sale of Rs. 1,50,000/– and the certified Bhandars, Rs. 1,00,000/–. The Bhandar's National Flag on Khadi has been recognised by the Indian Standards Institute as the Standard flag.

Sales Shoot Up

By 1951 the sales in the Bhandar had shot up to Rs. 15½ lakhs and it dealt with 47 Khadi production–centres in 16 States and 69 Village Industries production centres in 13 States. From 1952 the attention of the Central Government and of the Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, was drawn to the experiments conducted by Kora Kendra in the new method of cultivation. The Prime Minister recommended this method to the nation. The Gandhi Smarak Nidhi opened a Krishi Vibhag and carried on wide publicity throughout India for the new method. Thus the Kendra achieved wider recognition throughout the country

When the Government of India constituted the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board Shri Vaikunth L. Mehta, Shri Pranlal Kapadia and Shri Vithaldas Jerajani, Members of the Association, were included as its members.

The Kendra also held training classes for paddy cultivation, Tannery, Oil Ghani, Bone Digester and non-edible oil soap manufacture. Trainees from all over India, majority of them having been deputed by the Central or State Governments or the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, were admitted to these classes. The All India Khadi and Village Industries Board recognised the Kendra as one of its training centres in tannery for the Western Zone. It is the only centre for training in flaying.

With its expanding work, new buildings for a museum and a hostel were built. Shri Bharatanandji carried on his experiments of building houses by fortified and rammed earth. Gandhi Smarak Nidhi financed these experiments which were successful. A new activity was added this year in the form of production and sale of Neera. The Association carried out this work so successfully that the neera workers received about Rs. 6,000 in 1953–54 and about Rs. 12,500 in 1954–55 as extra wages.

The Emporium

The Association assumed greater responsibilities in 1953–54. The Khadi Bhandar at Kalbadevi was running in

full swing, but at the instance of Shri Vithaldas Jerajani and late Shri Naval Jerajani it was decided to undertake the management of the Khadi and Village Industries Emporium of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board. The Emporium was opened on 19th July, 1954. But shortly before the Bhavan was opened Shri Navalbhai Jerajani, who was a tower of strength to the Association, passed away, leaving a void in the ranks of its workers.

A new activity was added in 1955. It was bee-keeping. Nine modern hives have been installed at Kendra and systematic and scientific honey production is being developed.

Ten years have passed since the Kendra was founded by a handful of workers. The beginning was small. There was no plan then. The Centre was jungle land. Ten years of hard work sustained by faith in a noble cause has brought its own reward.

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PRODUCTION MINISTER ON AMBAR CHARKHA

Intervening in the debate on the Production Ministry's demands for grants in the Lok Sabha, Shri K. C. Reddy, Union Production Minister, claimed that the potentialities of the Ambar Charkha were immense. He said:

"If you compare the economics of traditional khadi production with the economics of Ambar Khadi production, you will find that Ambar Khadi production is by far superior to the economics of traditional khadi production. There is no doubt about that. On that basis, Government have decided that a well-thought-out programme—may be as a result of the pilot project scheme—of replacing the existing traditional charkhas by Ambar Charkhas should be proceeded with and the financial implications of it will be worked out by the Government at the proper time.

"What about the larger programme, the five-year programme, for Ambar Charkha for producing 400 odd million pounds of yarn for 1,700 million yards of cloth, which will not require the additional licensing of any spindleage, which will not require any additional powerlooms or anything of the kind? With regard to this, I would like to touch on only one or two important aspects. First, there is what may be called laboratory tests of Sarva Seva Sangh in Wardha. The Khadi and Village Industries Board, so far as they are concerned, are completely satisfied about the economics of the Ambar Charkha and they say that the various assumptions that they have made for the Ambar Charkha can be fully proved. That is the verdict that they have arrived at. But so far as the public are concerned, so far as the Government are concerned, so far as Parliament are concerned, we want to have certain assurances. We want to have no doubts in our minds as it is a question of Rs. 144 crores.

"......About the Ambar Charkha programme, I would like to say this. The Planning Commission have not provided so far any funds for Ambar Charkha programme in the Draft Outline of the Second Plan. If any amount is provided, as we indeed expect, will be provided as a result of the charkha tests being favourable, then another Rs. 200 crores will have to be provided about Rs. 150 to Rs. 200 crores – in addition to the size of the present Draft Outline of the Second Five-Year Plan. That point we should not forget. We are keeping all these things in view."

—"COMMERCE" April 14, 1956.

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